Irene deposits may have been moved—Chavez

STORY ON PAGE A2

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BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

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AFP checking reports of Abu in Zamboanga

THE MILITARY said yesterday it was checking reports that Abu Sayyaf leaders Khaddafy Janjalani and Abu Sabaya had slipped into Zamboanga from Basilan. Civilian informants had reported sighting Janjalani arriving on a motorboat with seven bodyguards on Friday on the west coast of Zamboanga City. Sabaya was reported to have been sighted elsewhere in Zamboanga, dressed in a Muslim woman's outfit. *Reuters*

A bride for Janjalani?

By Arlyn dela Cruz

GAGAWIN KONG DORE ANG RANSOM!

LAMITAN, Basilan—Love, it seems, conquers even kidnappers.

Already perplexed over the fate of Reyna "Nina" Malonzo, who was among four hostages taken by the Abu

A BRIDE/ A6

Troops given 90 days to crush kidnappers

Gov't plans more security, patrol forces

A 90-DAY deadline, additional security in tourist spots and stepped-up patrols in places where kidnappers are likely to strike.

These are the major features of a government plan to stem a wave of kidnappings in Metro Manila and other areas.

According to a Palace press statement yesterday, the government has imposed an ambitious 90-day deadline on all security forces, particularly the Philippine National Police and the Armed Forces, "to neutralize kidnap-for-ransom activities" across the country.

Malacañang also announced that Interior Secretary Jose Lina had ordered an "intensified security and mobile patrol" in tourist areas.

Lina's order was part of the 90-day deadline set by the recently organized National Peace and Order Council. Under the country's highest policy-making body on law enforcement are the PNP, AFP, National Bureau of Investigation and intelligence agencies of the government.

"We need to harmonize and integrate the actions being taken by these various groups to produce higher effectiveness in our campaign against kidnapping for ransom," the Palace statement quoted Lina as saying.

The statement did not specify when the 90-day period began: But it quoted Lina as saying that the government crackdown on kidnappers in Metro Manila and nearby provinces would be different from its parallel drive against the Abu Sayyaf bandits in Basilan.

President Macapagal-Arroyo has vowed to crush kidnappers in Metro Manila who have taken advantage of the hostage crisis in Basilan by seizing foreign and local businessmen.

At least 50 members of the Chinese-Filipino community, four Singaporean businessmen and three

TROOPS/ A17

GLORIA MEETS NATALIA

DENNIS SABANGAN

President Macapagal-Arroyo chats with Argentina's telenovela and pop star Natalia Oreiro, who paid a courtesy call on her at Malacañang Palace on Sunday. Oreiro is promoting a telenovela which will be shown over a local television network.

Gloria eroding Erap's 'masa' base, survey shows

By Amando Doronila

ANALYSIS

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo's rebound in the public opinion poll conducted in June took place at a time when the country was rocked by unsettling economic, political, and law and order events.

The poll results stood against the background of a torrent of bad news. The Abu Sayyaf hostage taking at Dos Palmas and the reported rise of crimes, mainly kidnappings, in Metro Manila shook business confidence in the administration.

Reports of alleged destabilization plots by supporters of deposed President Joseph Estrada as he faced trial before the Sandiganbayan on charges of plunder and perjury heightened political instability.

The peso continued to depreciate against the dollar. And the economic growth rate forecasts were downgraded.

A recovery of Ms Macapagal's approval and trust ratings against this picture of a government under siege from many sectors, therefore, requires examination into why the ratings fly in the face of conventional wisdom that during hard times, a sitting government's popularity

GLORIA/ A17

Ador gains credibility, passes test for drugs

By Cathy Yamsuan, Jhunnex Napallacan, Christian Esguerra and Carlito Pablo

FIRST he passed a series of lie detector tests. Then, he passed a drug test.

Angelo Mawanay alias Ador tested negative for shabu and marijuana during a drug test conducted at a military hospital on Saturday.

Opposition Sen. Panfilo Lacson is, however, claiming that Ador, who implicated him in kidnapping, murder and smuggling, is not telling the truth.

Lacson said that he would file perjury charges against the alleged former civilian agent of the defunct Presidential Anti-Organized Crime Task Force (PAOCTF).

"I'm just waiting for a copy of his sworn statements so I can file perjury charges against him and against those who are behind him," he yesterday told radio station dyLA in Cebu City.

Ador also alleged that Lacson, then head of the PAOCTF and the Philippine National Police, ordered casino employee Edgar Bentain kidnapped and killed in 1999 for releasing in 1998 a videotape showing then presidential candidate Joseph Estrada playing baccarat in a hotel casino.

Despite Lacson's attempts to discredit Ador, the number of Ador believers appears to be growing.

Banking on Ador's revelations, cause-oriented groups will launch on Wednesday the "Justice for Edgar Movement" to urge the government to speed up its investigation of the disapperance of the casino employee two years ago.

The groups, led by the Volunteers Against Crime and Corruption, will launch the movement after they found Ador's account of Bentain's abduction and possible murder "straightforward and credible."

"We are very convinced that Mawanay is telling the truth. He is

ADOR/ A18

Macapagal urged to endorse 2 wage hike bills

By Gerald G. Lacuarta

THE MILITANT labor group Kilusang Mayo Uno yesterday urged President Macapagal-Arroyo to certify as urgent two congressional bills seeking a P125 increase in the minimum wage of workers in Metro Manila.

But the KMU said the government must immediately order an across-the-board wage increase of P125 for all workers nationwide, or else face a "massive people's uprising" on the occasion of Ms Macapagal-Arroyo's first State of the Nation Address (Sona) on July 23.

"We demand an increase in wages now," said KMU spokesperson Sammy Malunes.

"We're sick and tired of the oil price hikes, and the plummeting peso value," he said.

"We are also tired of hearing government saying that it can't order wage increases because there's a need for austerity measures when we read about the multi-million salaries of government officials."

But a spokesperson of the Partido ng Manggagawang Pilipino (PMP), an underground revolutionary workers' party, accused the labor group of airing its demand only for propaganda purposes.

"A P125 wage increase for the KMU is not a serious demand but only good for propaganda. With the continuous inflation, P125 will not

MACAPAGAL/ A6

San Juan folk, groups launch Plunder Watch

By Michael Lim Ubac, Martin P. Marfil and Agnes E. Donato

TWO DAYS before the scheduled arraignment of jailed ex-President Joseph Estrada on a charge of plunder, residents of San Juan, his hometown and political bailiwick, again took the lead in pushing for his prosecution.

Yesterday, San Juan residents and militant groups launched the first local chapter of Plunder Watch, a national organization set up to monitor the coming trial of Estrada and son Jinggoy, both former mayors of the municipality.

As the arraignment drew closer, there was a flurry of preparations on the legal front:

- The Ombudsman prepared to ask the Supreme Court to review a ruling upholding the bank secrecy law.
- Lawyers of Jinggoy Estrada prepared to file a habeas corpus case in the high court.
- A senator refiled a bill seeking to allow live media coverage of court proceedings, including civil and criminal trials and appeals.

SAN JUAN/ A18

Guns-for-hire thrive in Ilocos towns

By Jerry Esplanada

SPECIAL REPORT

LAOAG CITY—Juanito Mahor Jr. has several tattoos etched in his rough skin, including a scorpion in the neck.

The 35-year-old detainee at the Ilocos Norte provincial jail here, whom jail guards and fellow detainees describe as a "man of few words," is a former Army Scout Ranger.

But Mahor is no ordinary detainee, according to the warden, Bonifacio Tagatac Jr. "Police reports say he is a *tirador* (gun-for-hire). And he has been to jail several times," Tagatac said.

This time, Mahor is facing criminal charges for the April 6 murder of Edgar Quinto, president of the Association of Barangay Captains of Currimao town, also in Ilocos Norte. Mahor's alleged partner in crime, Roderick Tolentino, is still at large.

Mahor and Tolentino are among the best-kept secrets of the municipality of Badoc, Ilocos Norte, 40 minutes by car from the provincial capital.

Badoc, birthplace of famous painter and patriot Juan Luna, is home to the region's most notorious guns-for-hire. In Ilocos Sur, the municipality of Narvacan has the same "bad reputation."

Merly, Quinto's wife, and several other people witnessed the killing of her husband in broad daylight at the Quinto residence in Barangay Lioes.

Mahor has achieved prominence because of the "number of kills" he made during the past 10 years, according to a jail guard.

GUNS-FOR-HIRE/ A18

DAGITI SANGAPULO A BILIN
9 DIKA AGUMAN TI ASAWA TI PADAM A TAO
TI PADAM A TAO
2 PARA ITI TAO

"DIKA Mamapatay" (Thou shall not kill) and the rest of God's Ten Commandments are inscribed in Ilocano on a wall of the parish church of Badoc, Ilocos Norte. The town is known as a hotbed of hired killers. RANDY HORMILLOSA

Second FRONT PAGE

NAILIPAT NA HABANG DI TAYO NAKA-TINGIN?!

Irene Swiss deposits feared gone

By Donna Cueto

THE IRENE Marcos-Araneta deposits at the Union Bank of Switzerland may have already been transferred to another European country, former Solicitor General Francisco Chavez said yesterday.

Chavez said the transfer may have been done after the Inquirer came out with a report last March on Irene Araneta's alleged attempt to launder money from her UBS accounts, including those under her client account number 885931, through the Deutsche Bank in Dusseldorf, Germany.

David Chaikin, a money laundering expert and a former senior fraud officer for the Australian government, said Araneta's attempt to launder her UBS deposits through German banks proved that UBS had indeed been keeping and maintaining accounts for the Marcoses.

UBS has repeatedly denied that it was handling any Marcos or Araneta accounts.

This time, however, UBS has been pinned down as having been at one time a depository bank of the Marcos accounts, and was principally responsible for transferring and hiding these accounts up to this day, said Chaikin, who is also the lawyer of Australian investigator Reiner Jacobi.

Chavez, who as the then solicitor general filed the forfeiture case against the Marcoses in 1991, said the UBS was still in control of these accounts although they have been transferred to another country near Switzerland.

In 1999, after a previous Inquirer series on the $13.2 billion accounts of Araneta, mostly under her client account number 885931, independent investigator Jacobi said some of the accounts were closed and transferred to Liechtenstein, which is known as a haven for money-launderers.

Chavez said that there were indications that a major bulk, if not all, of the Araneta accounts at the UBS had already been transferred to "another European country."

He did not name the country.

"It may thus be factually correct for the Marcoses to say that they have no money in UBS for the reason that the money is somewhere else but still under the control of UBS," Chavez said.

"The events in Switzerland, Germany and Liechtenstein should be clearly monitored because I anticipate an explosive exposé on laundered money to take place within the next few weeks," he said.

Chavez, who has been deputized by the justice department to help track down Marcos deposits abroad, is pushing for the Senate blue ribbon committee to pursue its investigation of the Araneta accounts because of new proof that UBS had indeed handled the said accounts.

He said that the Senate should summon not only Irene and Greggy Araneta, but also their partners in the attempted laundering of dirty money in Germany.

This would include Edna Camcam and her son, Jun Jun, the Aranetas' lawyer Eleazar Reyes, and their American business partners, Curtiss Waters and Hank Hutcherson.

Chavez said the summons by the Presidential Commission on Good Government might not be enough to compel the Aranetas to come out.

"I don't think that the Aranetas would be willing to cooperate with the PCGG because from all indications they do not respect the PCGG," he said.

"The better response is for the Senate blue ribbon committee to resume proceedings because there are supervening developments that are closely related to the investigation," Chavez said.

He said the Senate had just left the investigation on the Araneta accounts hanging.

The Aranetas' lawyer, Eleazar Reyes, would also be criminally liable for aiding the Aranetas' alleged attempt to launder money, he said.

Chavez met on June 27 with Joachim Strache, the Deutsche Bank official who had dealt with the Aranetas and their party last February when they went to the bank to open accounts.

He showed the banker a picture of the Araneta couple which appeared in a Chinese newspaper. The photo was not captioned nor did it give any hint as to the identities of the persons appearing in it.

Strache confirmed that the Araneta couple were the ones who opened the accounts at Deutsche Bank on Feb. 12, and that he was the one who attended to them.

Chavez said he decided to meet with the banker because a previous attempt by the Philippine government delegation proved futile.

But they were told by a bank official that Strache was not in his office.

Strache met with the Araneta couple inside his office at the upper basement of Deutsche Bank in February.

Deutsche Bank has not allowed the Philippine delegation to watch the video from its television monitor, which caught Irene Araneta inside the bank.

Serge O files Senate bill seeking to abolish PCGG

By C. Avendaño

SAYING that the Presidential Commission on Good Government has done "little" in its 15-year existence, Sen. Sergio "Serge" Osmeña III has filed a bill in the Senate seeking to abolish the agency.

Senate Bill No. 215 seeks the transfer of the powers of the PCGG to the Department of Justice.

"(This) is in keeping with the government policy of trimming off excess units and streamlining the bureaucracy," Osmeña said in his explanatory note on the bill.

The senator said the PCGG, which was created under the Aquino administration, had a "specified task," which is to recover the ill-gotten wealth amassed by the family of the late dictator Ferdinand Marcos and his cronies during the former president's 20-year rule.

"Fifteen years after its creation, the PCGG has produced little by way of accomplishments and actual results to justify its continued existence," Osmeña noted.

He said the "vast discretionary powers" of the agency provided "dangerous opportunities for misuse of power and authority."

Under the bill, the powers and functions of the PCGG would be transferred to a "Special Division for Sequestered Assets and Properties" in the justice department.

The new division would be headed by one of the DOJ undersecretaries, to be designated by President Macapagal-Arroyo.

All sequestered and frozen properties and assets under the PCGG's control are to be transferred to the DOJ special division.

The justice department is thus required to conduct, with the Commission on Audit, a complete accounting and physical inventory of these properties and assets.

Also to be transferred to the DOJ are all property, equipment, records and funds of the PCGG as well as personnel "of proven competence, integrity and probity."

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GenSan blasts hurt 13

BY AQUILES ZONIO
PDI Mindanao Bureau

GENERAL SANTOS CITY—Thirteen people, including minors, were injured after two improvised bombs exploded at a downtown building here early yesterday morning.

Police said the first bomb went off at about 1 a.m. at the rooftop of the four-story Rivera Building, which was being used as a grill restaurant cum discotheque and is a popular haunt of the city's teen population.

A second bomb went off minutes later at the stairway of the building's 3rd floor, which housed a small hotel.

Chief Supt. Manuel Raval, Central Mindanao Police Director said the injuries had not been caused by shrapnel but by flying debris from shattered glass windows, fixtures and concrete walls.

"The bombs were planted not to harm civilians but probably just to terrorize the city," Raval said.

Raval told AP police were searching for two people who, before the bombs went off, warned the discotheque clients, mostly teenagers, to leave the premises.

He said police did not immediately suspect any particular rebel or criminal group.

Police and military bomb experts said the damage had been caused mainly by the pressure from the blast as "no fragmentation was found at the scene of the explosions."

Raval blamed the security personnel of the establishments for failing to impose stringent security.

"Prior to this bombing incident, officials of the city government, police and military called the owners of various business establishments and heads of different security agencies to a meeting in order to strengthen internal security in their establishments," Raval said.

The meeting was held after intelligence reports warned of "plans by some lawless elements to carry out terroristic activities in the city."

Raval said that security personnel of private establishment must inspect all customers and check every piece of luggage before allowing them to enter.

"Until now, our order directing heads of different security agencies to adopt strict and tight security measures still stands. We could say that there was a lapse on the part of the security personnel manning the building," he said.

Mayor Pedro Acharon Jr. also blamed the building's security personnel for the incident.

"We keep on reminding them to tighten the internal security of their establishments as this is their lookout, not of the police's," he told GMA Super Radyo.

Acharon said that the cooperation and vigilance of the civilians and the public as a whole was very necessary in containing terrorism.

One of the bombing victims earlier reported to be in critical condition has survived.

Doctors at the St. Elizabeth Hospital said Carla Francisqulte, 18, is already out of danger.

Rooftop Ihaw-Ihaw has become an alternative hangout for General Santos teeners as it charges an entrance fee of only P20, by far the cheapest of the disco houses here.

Aside from being inexpensive, Rooftop's regular menu of barbecue, roasted and grilled wild pig is a hit with disco goers here. *With a report from AP*

Solon asks gov't to curb intelligence funds abuse

THE MACAPAGAL administration could save money by curbing the use of intelligence funds by various government agencies, Bukidnon Rep. Miguel Zubiri said yesterday.

According to Zubiri, the 2000 general appropriations act had allotted P1.019 billion to certain government agencies for "confidential and intelligence expenses."

The fund, he said, is being used by top-ranked government officials to collate "sensitive information related to the mandate of their offices."

Another P1 billion was allotted for operations and activities of civilian, police and military intelligence services.

"These two intelligence funds, totaling P2 billion, must be subjected to regular audit by the Commission on Audit in the interest of accountability," Zubiri, in a press statement, said.

"What we have at present is the situation that funds used clandestinely are audited clandestinely. There is a veil of secrecy draping the use and liquidation of these funds," he added.

This came after President Macapagal-Arroyo ordered pay cuts for top executives of government-owned and controlled corporations, a move that is expected to save government about P260 million.

Compared to the pay cuts, Zubiri said, checking the abuses in the use of intelligence funds could save government more.

Under COA rules, Zubiri said, a mere certification by an authorized official that a certain amount was spent for intelligence gathering is already sufficient for fund liquidation purposes.

He, however, clarified that he was not advocating that the current administration eliminate the intelligence funds or withhold the money from those who risk life and limb in acquiring information.

"What must be curbed is the use of intelligence funds by officials who by nature of their work shouldn't have access to these funds in the first place like golf course habitues and those who regularly reconnoiter hotel lobbies," he said.

He said intelligence funds must be rationalized and insulated from abuse to ensure that the money would be spent for the purpose it was allotted for.

Zubiri had earlier filed a resolution calling for the creation of a Congressional Oversight Committee on Intelligence Matters.

He had also filed a bill calling for the regular audit of intelligence funds.

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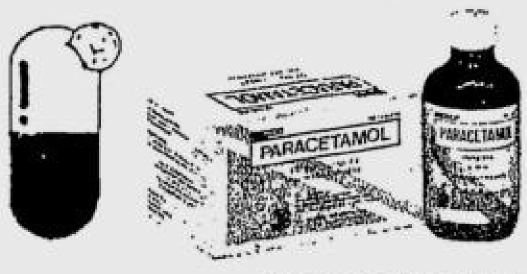

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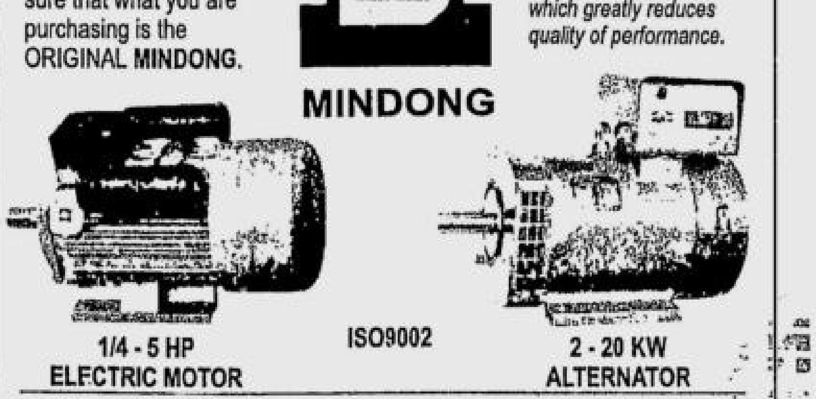

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Garbage-clogged waterways in Metro Manila irks Gloria

BY CARLITO PABLO

A PEEVED President Macapagal-Arroyo has ordered the Armed Forces to assist the government in clearing Metro Manila's waterways of the tons of garbage that cause flooding each time it rains.

"I am irked by reports that every time it floods in Metro Manila, it is always because of garbage," the President said at her weekly press conference in Malacañang Friday.

The President said she has called in the construction and engineering brigades of the Armed Forces of the Philippines to help repair the devastation caused by typhoon "Feria" and to clean up the garbage clogging Metro Manila's waterways.

The metropolis produces about 6,000 tons of garbage daily, 35 percent of which ends up in its sewers, rivers and creeks.

Ms Macapagal said, "We should have learned by now that even with a little rain, the streets (will get) flooded if we don't clean up the *esteros* and remove the garbage from the canals."

The President said she has ordered the AFP to work closely with the Department of Public Works and Highways and the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority to solve Metro Manila's garbage problem.

"The AFP has been helping out through the Navy, but I want this fight against garbage to be a sustained one. That's why I want all agencies concerned to help out," she said.

Death toll: 121

Civil defense officials on Sunday said the death toll from Typhoon Feria's rampage through the country has risen to 121 with 130 injured and 44 people still missing.

Most of the deaths occurred in the mountain resort city of Baguio and nearby provinces, which were hit by landslides and flooding at the height of the typhoon Thursday.

The Office of Civil Defense said 829,476 people across Luzon were displaced by the storm, which wrought total damage to agriculture and property of P1.08 billion.

Mayor Bernie Vergara of Baguio said parts of his city were still under water, with electricity still out.

Packing winds of 170 kilometers per hour, Feria dumped heavy rains across Luzon triggering heavy flooding and landslides.

Among those still missing are 30 persons in Benguet and two cave explorers who went missing in Mountain Province.

The storm blew out of the Philippines on Thursday and headed for southern China.

Relief work and medical missions were ongoing in the affected provinces Sunday, the civil defense office said.

The floods that submerged Baguio were blamed on the denudation of the surrounding forests.

It has brought renewed calls for a total ban on logging in the country.

Log ban doubted

Yesterday, an official of a nationwide environmental non-governmental organization expressed doubts Environment Secretary Heherson Alvarez would support a total logging ban.

Ted Bonpin, senior staff lawyer of Tanggol Kalikasan Inc., told the INQUIRER in a phone interview that he knew Alvarez to be a proponent of selective logging.

"I don't know what the secretary's position would be (on a total log ban). "*Doon ako kinakabahan* (That's what worries me)," Bonpin said.

He said Tanggol Kalikasan supports a commercial log ban, which does not cover genuine community-based and socially responsible forestry management.

He said typhoon Feria proved a logging ban should no longer be an issue.

"It's no longer an issue. If the forests are denuded, flooding is certain. That is a scientific fact," he said.

He admitted, however, that there were areas that were flood-prone.

The NGO official lamented that attempts to legislate a logging ban have always failed, "because of the strong lobby waged by those into corporate logging."

He said the government should instead support community-based forestry.

"Although there are challenges even in the community-based forestry program, it is worth supporting because it is the small people who will benefit," he said. ***With Delfin Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau, and an AFP report***

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RESIDENTS wade flooded street in Urdaneta, Pangasinan. AP

BRIGHT SIDE

Floods wipe out rats

BY ANSELMO ROQUE
PDI Central Luzon Desk

CABANATUAN CITY—If it's any consolation at all, the flashflood that hit Aliaga, Nueva Ecija Thursday reduced the town's rat population, long the bane of rice farmers.

The waters, which rose suddenly at around 3:30 a.m. Thursday and engulfed nearly the entire town, carried away the rats, particularly their young.

The rodents were driven out of their burrows in the ricefields and most of them drowned when the floodwaters rose to four feet.

The rats that managed to survive the rampaging waters, however, were not able to escape from some residents who collected them for food.

A field man of the provincial agricultural office here said some live rats were caught in tree branches and around irrigation canals by the menfolk of the town.

The PAO employee said he was certain the rats, which are edible since they feed on grains, were eaten.

Of late, field mice have become a staple on local menus. The meat is prepared like *adobo* or *tapa* and soaked in vinegar, garlic and pepper.

People who have tasted rat meat say it is similar to the meat of edible birds. Others claimed rat meat is an aphrodisiac.

Mayor Elizabeth Vargas called up radio stations in Metro Manila at dawn Thursday to report the flooding in her town. She said the town center, an elevated area, was under two feet of water.

She said the water on the roads leading to the center was chest-deep or about four feet.

Many residents clambered to their rooftops to escape the rising waters, she added.

The flashflood in Aliaga was reportedly caused by the partial destruction of the dike in Barangay San Carlos after the Talavera River swelled at the height of typhoon "Feria."

Babe Santos, an Aliaga resident, said she was awakened by the wailing of farm animals as the floodwaters rose. She said that after an hour, the animal sounds stopped.

Jose Torres, an agriculture official in Nueva Ecija, said initial reports indicated that more than 2,000 goats and pigs also drowned in the flashflood. Hundreds of native chickens were swept away by floodwaters, he said.

Aliaga farmers, particularly those who till the land near the destroyed dike, have appealed for rice seeds to replace those destroyed in their seedbeds.

Gov. Tomas Joson III has asked the Department of Agriculture to rush the delivery of rice seeds to the farmers.

Flashfloods were also reported in the towns of Zaragoza, San Antonio and Licab, all in Nueva Ecija, and La Paz, Tarlac Friday afternoon.

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'Water war' feared over power reform OK

BAGUIO CITY—Agriculture Secretary Leonardo Montemayor has acknowledged the possibility of a war over water erupting between farmers and hydroelectric power firms following the passage of the Electric Power Reform Act in May.

Montemayor, a former congressman representing the peasant sector, stopped short of condemning the law, however, during a business forum held here June 30.

The new law, which deregulated the power industry and will auction off the state-owned National Power Corp. (Napocor), also opened various rivers and waterways in Luzon and the Visayas to power industry development.

Hydroelectric power facilities are attractive to investors because these are profitable yet cost-effective investments, said Juan Ngalob, Cordillera director of the National Economic Development Authority (Neda).

Under a "worst case scenario," farmers could end up competing with power projects for vital irrigation water, Montemayor told the INQUIRER.

Montemayor attended the Baguio leg of a nationwide briefing on Philippine business and economic prospects sponsored by the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PCCI) and Philippines Inc.

Ngalob spoke at the same forum in behalf of Neda secretary general Dante Canlas.

Montemayor said he is pursuing a study on the impact of the power reform law on basic agriculture, "although I don't know yet if it (the study) is a (government) priority."

Cordillera waterways are a logical development target of power industry players because they form a natural watershed for Luzon.

The National Statistical Coordinating Board labeled the Cordilleras as "Luzon's watershed."

The mountains there have the potential to harness 950 megawatts of electricity from its waterways that dominate 30 percent of the region's forested territory, according to a paper by Rufino Bomasang, president of the Philippine National Oil Co. (PNOC) Exploration Corp.

Cordillera hosts two of the oldest hydropower facilities in the country—the Ambuklao and Binga dams.

The controversial San Roque Multipurpose Dam Project (SRMDP) in San Manuel, Pangasinan is also designed to harness the powerful Agno River that flows from the Cordillera. ***Vincent Cabreza, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau***

NO RETREAT

LP firms up Abad bid for speakership

By Gerald G. Lacuarta

THE LIBERAL Party is firming up the candidacy of Rep. Florencio Abad (Batanes) for the speakership of the House of Representatives, and it is prepared to bolt the administration People Power Coalition if necessary.

This was confirmed yesterday by a stalwart of the party, a former congressman from Luzon, who said the LP will hold a big meeting sometime this week to decide on the party's position in the PPC and to support the candidacy of Abad.

"We met recently with President Macapagal-Arroyo to inform her of our members' feelings that we were being treated as a minority in the PPC," the LP source who requested anonymity said.

"We told her we might as well join the minority," he added.

The LP, along with Macapagal's bigger Lakas-NUCD, Promdi, Reporma and Aksyon Demokratiko make up the PPC.

Rep. Benigno Aquino III (LP, Tarlac) said the other day the party might bolt the coalition over its treatment of LP members.

In particular, the LP was protesting the committee chairmanships offered to them in the 12th Congress by the PPC.

Aquino complained the party was being shortchanged despite having delivered votes to the PPC in the last elections. Aquino particularly cited Abad, LP chair, who was the only official to deliver a 13-0 senatorial sweep to the coalition in his province.

Abad is one of two serious challengers to Rep. Jose de Venecia (Lakas, Pangasinan) for the speakership.

De Venecia, who reports said has the support of majority of his peers, was not confident President Macapagal could continue to hold the PPC together due to the jockeying for positions in the House and Senate, another congressman revealed.

"The President is not in control of Congress," the source quoted De Venecia as telling a group of representatives.

De Venecia, the source said, compared Ms Macapagal to the late strongman, Ferdinand Marcos, and found her wanting.

"She is not Marcos and will never be Marcos," who was able to wield influence in Congress and make it pass his priority bills, De Venecia was quoted as saying.

At the same time, other leaders of Lakas-NUCD, to which De Venecia belongs, expressed concern about an alliance the one-time speaker reportedly formed with the Nationalist People's Coalition of businessman Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco.

De Venecia deal 'alarms' Javier

REP. Exequiel B. Javier (Lakas, Antique), said he was "alarmed" over a deal Rep. Jose De Venecia cut with the NPC which is identified with ousted President Joseph Estrada.

In a statement, Javier, former governor of Antique and younger brother of the late governor Evelio B. Javier who founded the NUCD (National Union of Christian Democrats), said the party was never consulted on the coalition with the NPC.

"The party was never consulted. The leadership of the House is a matter for the party to decide. It is too important an issue to be left to one man," he said, in apparent reference to De Venecia who allegedly formed the alliance to ensure his election to the speakership.

"We do not remember being consulted on the issue. The party was bypassed. The PPC was bypassed. We were presented with a *fait accompli*," Javier said.

More Cathay flights canceled

HONG KONG—Hong Kong's Cathay Pacific Airways said it had been forced to cancel more flights Sunday and would reduce scheduled services by 20 percent owing to a work-to-rule protest by its pilots.

Cathay said that as of 8 a.m., "41 flights had been canceled due to continued disruption caused by industrial action by the pilots' union" and as a result of the reduced flight schedule.

The airline said 37 of a scheduled 129 flights had also been delayed by more than 15 minutes.

The Hong Kong Aircrew Officers' Association (HKAOA), which represents around 1,200 of the 1,500 Cathay pilots, launched its work to rule last Tuesday after talks on improved wages and benefits collapsed.

The airline said increasing numbers of pilots had been calling in sick since the industrial action was launched, further disrupting schedules disrupted by last week's typhoon "Utor" ("Feria" in the Philippines).

"In the aftermath of the typhoon and with the HKAOA's escalating industrial action, we decided Saturday to make temporary reductions in our schedule," said Cathay's corporate development director Tony Tyler.

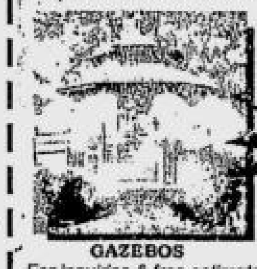
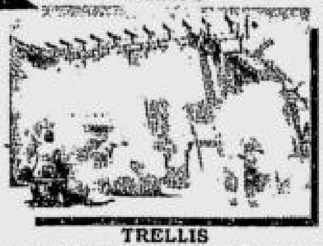
The airline's decision to trim its schedule to about 80 percent from Sunday would ensure a "reliable, albeit reduced, schedule for our passengers," Tyler said in a statement.

The airline said it would temporarily suspend flights to 13 cities including Adelaide, Colombo, Cairns, Delhi, Hanoi, Karachi, Manchester, New York, Penang and Perth.

But Cathay said a total of 16 extra flights had also been scheduled Sunday in an attempt to restore regular service following chaos caused by the typhoon, which stranded thousands of passengers.

Four of the extra flights would be operated by Cathay's own aircraft, while 12 would be leased from carriers including China Airlines, Malaysia Airlines and Singapore Airlines.

AFP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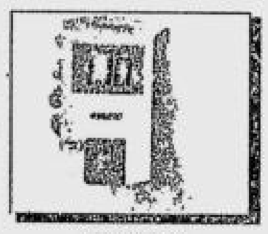
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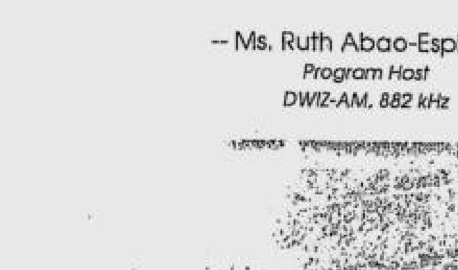
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Macapagal urged to endorse 2 wage hike bills

(From page A1)

bring any changes," PMP spokesperson Patricio Ramirez said in a statement.

Gerry Albert Corpuz, Pambansang Lakas ng Kilusang Mamamalakaya ng Pilipinas (Pamalakaya) spokesperson, said the wage hike issue would be decided "in the streets and in the halls of Congress and not on regional wage boards dominated by political operators and crackpot economists."

Sen. Juan Flavier filed the Senate bill seeking to increase the daily pay of workers in the private sector, while Bayan Muna Rep. Crispin Beltran, the KMU chair, is expected to file a counterpart bill in the House of Representatives.

The KMU and other workers' groups also urged Labor Secretary Patricia Sto. Tomas to support their demand to increase the daily pay of all workers nationwide.

"We are inviting the labor secretary to involve herself deeply in the just fight for a P125-across-the-board wage increase among all regular and contractual workers nationwide," Corpuz said.

The KMU and other militant groups reiterated their call for the abolition of the regional wage boards, which have the sole power to determine basic pay rates in their respective regions.

"The wage boards exist to keep wages down," Malunes charged.

Sto. Tomas had said she was pushing for the P125 hike to enable Metro Manila workers to cope with the rising cost of living, and had ordered the Regional Tripartite Wages and Productivity Boards to immediately adjust the minimum wage rates without waiting for formal petitions from trade unions.

Malunes cited a latest study by the National Wages and Productivity Commission indicating that workers need a living wage of P509 daily or P15,269 monthly to support a family beyond subsistence level.

But "we cannot expect the regional wage boards to approve the pay hike demanded by workers," Corpuz said.

The regional wage boards last increased wages last November, the largest being a P26.50-wage hike for workers in Metro Manila.

Adjusting the daily basic pay from P250 to P375 would benefit around 750,000 minimum wage earners in the metropolis.

Corpuz also said officials of top corporations are sure to lobby against the bills.

Malunes agreed, saying "the government is always pointing out that in considering wages and wage hikes, the employers' capacity to pay must be considered."

Indeed, two senators, while agreeing that workers should be paid more, cautioned that "we should balance the interests of workers and employers."

Otherwise, companies, particularly medium-sized firms, may be forced to close down, prompting mass layoffs, Senators Franklin Drilon and Renato Cayetano argued. ***With reports from Christine Avendaño; and Delfin Mallari, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau***

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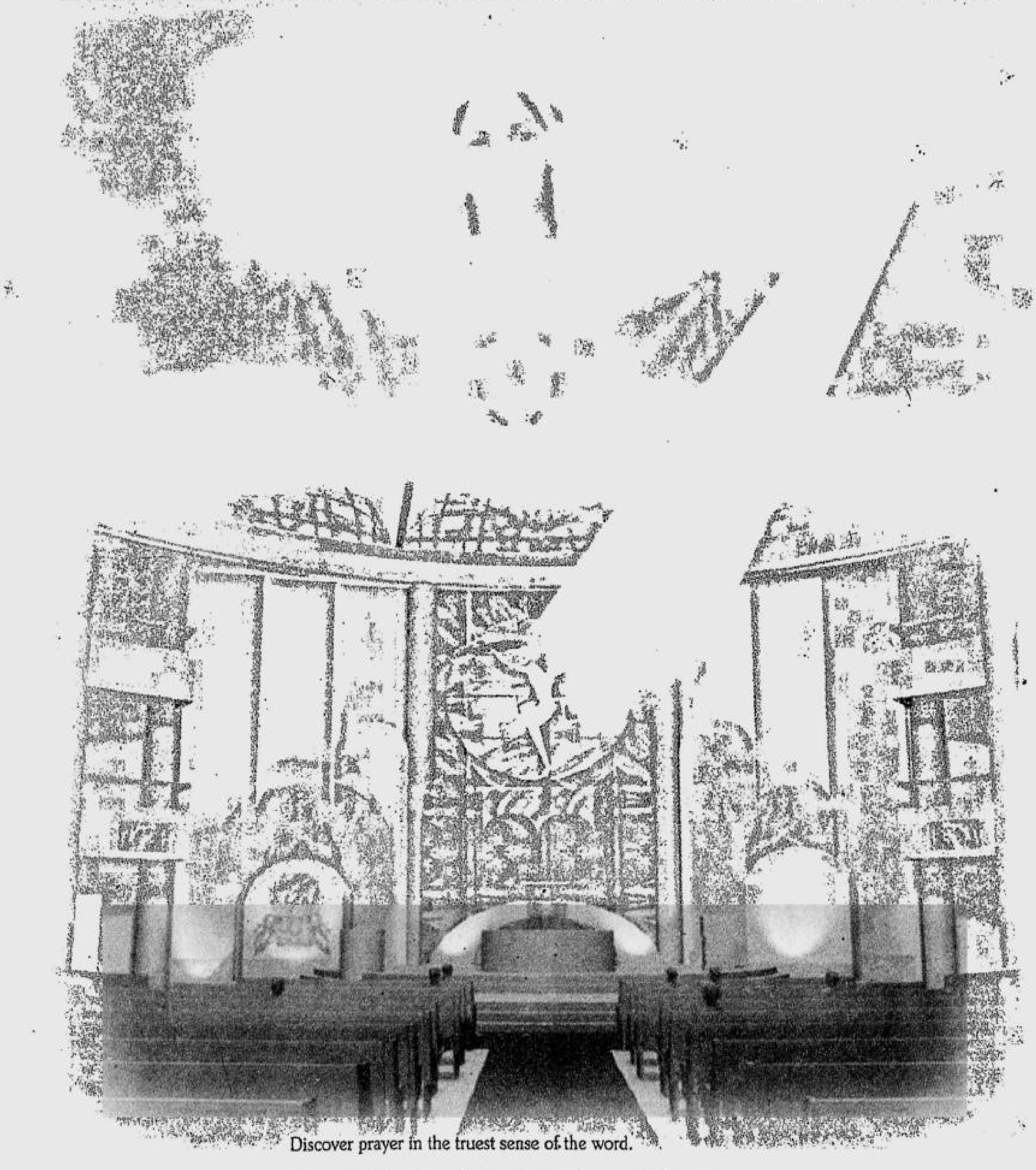

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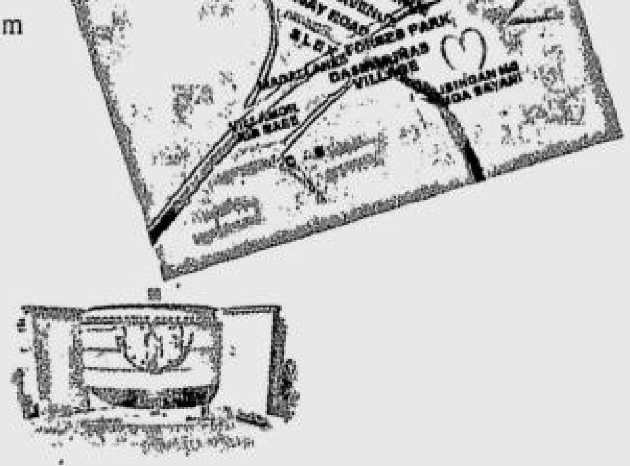

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A bride . . .

(From page A1)

Sayyaf from the Jose Torres Memorial Hospital here, the victim's family now confronts rumors that she has been married to Khaddafy Janjalani, one of the bandit group's leaders.

Nina, a 22-year-old nurse, and the other hostages were seized when the Abu Sayyaf stormed this town more than a month ago and broke through a military cordon.

When they celebrated the birthday of one of Nina's nieces recently, her parents and other relatives prepared extra food just in case she came home from the jungles.

On the mocha-flavored cake was written "Welcome home Nina." The cake had red icing, Nina's favorite.

Aling Tarsila, Nina's mother, said she had received news that her daughter would be freed soon. The rebels were just waiting for the arrival of a "friend" from Manila before finally releasing her and her three companions, she said.

Asked where she got the information, Aling Tarsila responded: "From a local radio station."

She explained that radio, TV and newspaper reports were their only sources of information regarding the status of the hostages.

Aling Tarsila and other members of her family saw President Macapagal-Arroyo during her visit to Lamitan last month, but the meeting had proven "useless" because the government had not yet coordinated with them.

Two sisters of Aling Tarsila, who came all the way from Cotabato and Cebu, said they were expecting at least a local government official or somebody from Malacañang to help them with their problem, but no one came.

The sister from Cebu, who asked not to be named, said: "Only media people like you come to us once in a while for interviews."

The sister from Cotabato added: "The government insists on its no-ransom policy, but everyone here in the province knows that that will never be the case with the Abu Sayyaf."

"You pay, you go," that's the policy, she said. " But what will we pay them?" Aling Tarsila asked in Filipino.

Rumors

The Malonzos are also beleaguered by rumors that Nina was married to Abu Sayyaf leader Khaddafy Janjalani in Muslim rites somewhere in the mountains of Basilan.

There was even a report from a local radio station that Janjalani had paid P100,000 as "*dore*" (dowry) to Nina's family. According to Muslim tradition, the groom gives the bride's parents "*dore*" to assure them that he can financially support their daughter's needs.

But Aling Tarsila vehemently denied the rumor, saying they have received not a single centavo from anybody, much less from Janjalani.

Nina's longtime boyfriend, Alvin, is also confident that no wedding took place.

"I still hope they won't think of that and respect Nina," Alvin said in Filipino. He said he would keep his promise to marry Nina "whatever happens."

"She will have to rest first and free herself from the psychological trauma of her experience with the Abu Sayyaf, but I will be with her every step of the way," he vowed.

Nina would be Janjalani's second wife if she was indeed married to him. The bandit leader's first wife is his first cousin, Sherma Manatad, with whom he has two children.

A businessman in Isabela City, who was tapped by Malacañang to negotiate with the Abu Sayyaf, said Nina would be among the next batch of the hostages to be freed.

Another source, who is in touch with the Abu Sayyaf, said Nina and Angie Montealegre, one of the hostages taken from the Dos Palmas Resort in Palawan, were in the hands of Commanders Hapilon and Jose.

According to the source, Hapilon and Jose were just waiting for the return of another Abu Sayyaf group that escorted two other Dos Palmas hostages, Lalaine Chua and Luis Bautista, to freedom in an area controlled by the Moro Islamic Liberation Front.

Trend?

In Kidapawan City, a 16-year-old college student surfaced on Monday finally to deny reports that she had eloped with her boyfriend.

"I was kidnapped," the victim said between sobs in an interview with the Catholic-run radio dxND.

She said that two weeks ago, a classmate, identified as Badrudin Pagukag, persuaded her to attend a birthday party in Matalam town.

But once there, Pagukag allegedly locked her in a room and told the girl that she would only be freed if she agreed to marry him.

"I was put inside a room with no windows. His father knew his son locked me inside their house but did nothing. I haven't had any chance to escape because everyone in the area seemed to be on his side," the girl said.

The victim said Pagukag later brought her to Pagagawan town in Maguindanao.

There, a policeman, identified as Insp. Barcia Daliasin, interceded and negotiated for her release.

Village officials and the girl's relatives had earlier suspected that she eloped with Pagukag, noting reports that a Maguindanaon leader took them in custody.

"We (did not) attempt to get her back because it is against our tradition, especially when elders intercede. We respect our leaders and claiming her back could mean that we don't respect them," Bai Inday Patadon, an aunt of the victim, said.

Pagukag is facing kidnapping charges after the girl refused to forgive him.

Last week, a lone gunman abducted a midwife in Kabuntalan, Maguindanao.

The victim, Vivian Cosicol, found that her abductor was not planning to exchange her for a ransom but that "he wanted to marry me."

She later succeeded in convincing the man to release her by telling him that she was already married and has six children.

The man returned her to the village where she was seized. ***With reports from Jeffrey M. Tupas and Edwin O. Fernandez, PDI Mindanao Bureau***

ADB says gov't subsidy to NFA totaled P78B over 3-year period

DAVAO CITY—Government subsidies to the National Food Authority totaled P78 billion over a three-year period, substantially draining the treasury of cash that could have been spent to benefit the economy, the Asian Development Bank said.

The ADB report was made even as the government has continued to reduce its monetary support to the NFA since 1996.

Citing a study it conducted, the ADB said the subsidies—totaling P78 billion between 1996 and 1998—have translated to a loss in the welfare of Philippine society as a whole.

The ADB study showed the farming sector suffered the highest welfare loss with P25.1 billion that otherwise would have gone to it, while Filipino consumers suffered a welfare loss of P32.8 billion.

The aid agency said government efforts to reduce its subsidies to the NFA were not enough, as shown by the welfare loss figures.

The ADB said the only way to reduce, if not eradicate, welfare losses is for the government to stop subsidizing the NFA, while exerting efforts to make the country's grains sector competitive in the world market.

The government is launching a $175-million Grains Sector Development Program to oversee implementation of measures to reduce the subsidies. The program will be funded by a loan from the ADB.

Under the program, the government will set a maximum price at which it would buy rice from farmers.

Under the program, the grains sector will be liberalized, but a tariff on rice importation would be charged in place of quantitative restrictions, in order to protect local farmers. *Allan Nawal, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

600 Pinoy peacekeepers back from East Timor

A 600-MEMBER peacekeeping force returned home yesterday after a six-month stint in the newly independent East Timor.

The group, composed of soldiers, doctors, nurses and engineers from the three Armed Forces commands, arrived aboard the BRP Lanao del Norte, which docked at the back of the Navy headquarters on Roxas Boulevard at 2 p.m.

Rear Adm. Arthur Garrido, AFP Deputy Chief of Staff for Personnel, commended the members of the seventh contingent of peacekeepers who were sent to East Timor.

"I congratulate you for having shown the world what great things Filipino soldiers can do. We are proud of you and salute you for a job well-done," he said in a speech at the Navy headquarters.

The eighth batch of 604 peacekeepers left last month to replace the contingent that arrived yesterday.

The country has been deploying forces to the newly independent island-nation as part of its commitment to international peacekeeping operations.

The peacekeepers serve, risking life and health, wherever they are sent. Many come home infected with malaria.

Those who arrived yesterday were elated to see members of their families inside the Navy headquarters. Unfortunately, some were not allowed to enter the Navy facility for security reasons.

"I'm happy to be back home," said Army T/Sgt. Sherlita de Jose, 39, who broke into cheers upon seeing her sister.

She said that while she and the others went to East Timor mainly to maintain security and perform humanitarian services, they also acted as the country's "ambassadors of goodwill."

TJ Burgonio

Patrol craft, planes on top of AFP shopping list

PUERTO PRINCESA CITY—A large portion of the P10 billion released last week for the modernization of the Armed Forces will go to the procurement of patrol craft and airplanes, AFP Chief Gen. Diomedio Villanueva said in an interview here.

Villanueva, who came for the change-of-command ceremony at the Western Command here, said the Abu Sayyaf kidnapping had brought to public attention the inadequacy of Armed Forces resources, particularly its naval and air facilities.

"The Abu Sayyaf kidnapping has not only affected the tourism industry but has also brought to the fore actual proof that our assets, both naval and air, are inadequate even in the face of a determined, well-motivated and dedicated personnel," he said.

Rear Admiral Rodolfo R. Rabago turned over the reins of the Wescom to its new commanding chief, Maj. Gen. Manuel Carranza Jr., the immediate past superintendent of the Philippine Military Academy.

Villanueva said the AFP, particularly the Wescom, has been under close public scrutiny as a result of the terrorist attacks on the province.

The Western Command was blamed for the security failure in the kidnapping of more than 20 people by the Abu Sayyaf from the Dos Palmas resort more than a month ago.

Villanueva said two speedboats capable of running at 35 to 40 knots are now being constructed in Zamboanga to beef up the Wescom's patrol operations in Palawan.

Carranza, accepting his first area command assignment, pledged to use the necessary amount of force and resources to maintain peace and order in the province.

He said he came with experience but admitted to not knowing his area of responsibility, this being his first visit to Palawan.

A member of PMA Class '69, Carranza has held various positions in the AFP, including Wing Commander of the 600th Air Base Wing in Pampanga, chief of staff of the Philippine Air Force and PMA superintendent since January. *Geraldford P. Ticke and Ruelle Albert Castro, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

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Lecturer: Hon. Rodolfo G. Palattao, Associate Justice, Sandiganbayan
Reactor: Hon. Jesus F. Guerrero, Deputy Ombudsman for Luzon

1:30-5:00 p.m., Thursday, 26 July 2001
Topic: REP. ACT 7610 AND THE REVISED PENAL CODE ON CHILD ABUSE INCLUDING REP. ACT 8353
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1:30-5:00 p.m., Friday, 27 July 2001
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Lecturer: Justice Ricardo P. Galvez, Of Counsel, Tan Acut and Lopez Law Offices
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8:00-12:00, Saturday, 28 July 2001
Topic: UPDATES ON CRIMINAL LAW AND JURISPRUDENCE
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OPINION

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Founding Chairman

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To publish or not...

EDITORIAL

THE DEBATE goes on: to publish or not a picture depicting blood and gore. The INQUIRER did it again in its June 30 issue when it published on Page 1 a film clip from a video showing a kidnapper's hand cutting a portion of the ear of a British national.

The decision to publish was based on our belief that a vital part of our duty is to bring home the horrors and ugliness of the state of the nation. To shock us out of our comfort zones. Because there's something very wrong with a country where criminals right in the center of town are on a kidnapping spree, mutilating their victims to force the payment of ransom. There's something very wrong here. There was nothing wrong with the picture. It mirrored, as good journalism should, what is happening in our community.

As expected, and we are grateful, we heard from our readers. Their collective response was negative. We are very sorry to have offended them. But much too often, journalists are the bearer of bad news, which just about defines the profession. Below, we sum up the objections of our readers (and some of our editors, too). Beside each one is our answer. Perhaps, not entirely to your satisfaction, but we hope to address your concerns.

• **The story was gruesome enough, did we have to use the picture?** The story plus its visual part (the picture showing scissors in the process of snipping the victim's ear) delivered the message with a powerful punch. And what was the message? Contrary to police statistics that had been paraded, crimes are not only escalating in Metro Manila but are plumbing new depths of bestiality. This did not happen in Abu Sayyaf territory.

• **We showed lack of respect for the privacy of the victim and his family.** We were uncomfortable with having to show a portion of the victim's face. But the video had already been shown at a special security briefing for intelligence officers at the British Embassy. Subsequently, copies of the tape found their way to Camp Crame from where the INQUIRER obtained a copy.

The British showing, no doubt, was for the benefit of our so-called intelligence officers to pick up clues on the identity of the criminals. More to the point, the British were certainly sending a strong message to the officers that they had better be intelligent enough to get cracking on these lawless elements with the bad habit of cutting up people.

Exactly the sentiments behind the use of the photo.

• **Think of the image of the country. The picture only made it worse.** This is like saying that there would be no crime wave if only the press did not report it. The American writer, Nora Ephron, said that disturbing photos should be published. "That they disturb readers is exactly as it should be..." That great apostle of non-violence, Mahatma Gandhi, said it best: Truth is the best propaganda.

• **The kidnappers achieved their objectives; the photo made the message of terror more emphatic and encouraged the payment of ransom.** The victim, kidnapped last May, was released for a P10-million ransom and was safely out of the country by the time we published the photo. Otherwise, no way would we publish it. We are not in the business of aiding and abetting criminals in low and high places.

• **The video was sent by the kidnappers; the INQUIRER allowed itself to be used as a courier to demand payment.**

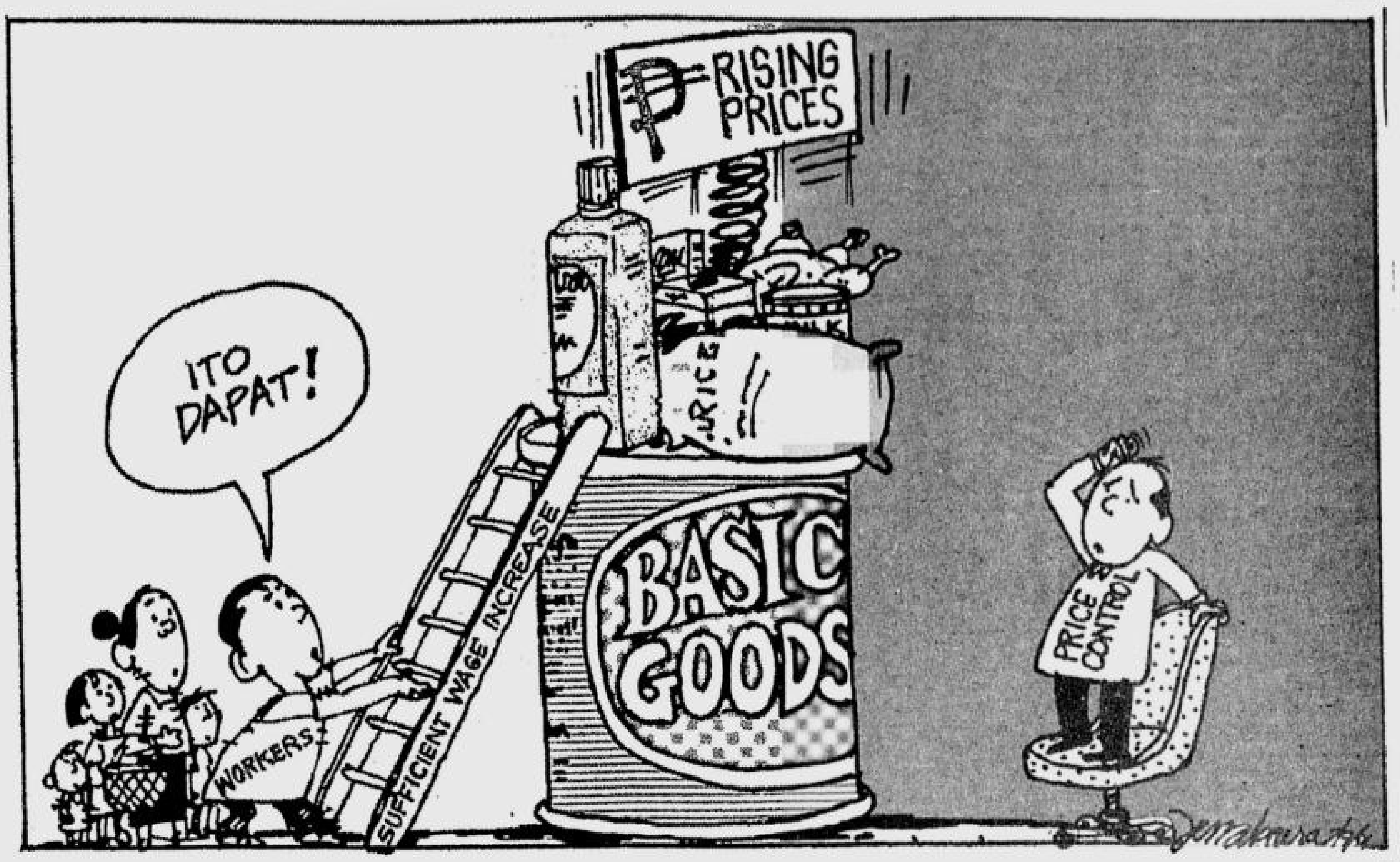
For the answer, see above.

All the readers' concerns were discussed and debated in our weekly editorial assessment meeting. We did not arrive at easy answers. For there aren't any. Only that grisly pictures will be considered on a case-to-case basis. Only that we will not suppress the publication of pictures no matter how awful if they tell true stories that have to be told. Because they have "an authority far more potent than any editor's policy or reader's squeamishness..." Because they tell of "the long, lonely pain and the utter heartbreak of a whole people."

The words between quotation marks are from Life Magazine to respond to the complaints of readers about its startlingly vivid photographs of the brutalities of war. The words were written in 1938.

Which is saying that this debate about offensive pictures has been going on since journalism immemorial. And the debate goes on in our newsroom today. It considers ethical concerns. It considers validating our decisions to our stakeholders and especially to our readers. Next time a controversial picture heaves into view, our debates will "take a bit longer, and go a bit deeper..." as the Columbia Journalism Review has suggested.

We promise. But what has to be told will be told. What has to be shown will be shown. And because we have explained why, please understand.



Believe It or Not at Comelec

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

THIS one is for Believe It or Not. But it shows the utter incompetence and partiality of the present Commission on Elections.

A former mayor of Isabela and gubernatorial candidate in the last elections filed a disqualification case against his rival for being a fugitive from justice in the United States. Instead, it was he who was disqualified by the Comelec. His rival was allowed to run without any opponent.

The case is so scandalous that the Supreme Court ordered the Comelec and the Provincial Board of Canvassers not to enforce its own resolution, not to canvass the results of the voting for governor and not to proclaim any winner.

This ironic turnabout happened to Manuel Siquian, mayor of Angadanan, Isabela, from 1972 to 1976. Last May 14, he ran for governor of Isabela against former Rep. Faustino Dy Jr. Before the elections, he filed a disqualification case against Dy under Section 40 of Republic Act 7160 (Local Government Code of 1991) which provides for the disqualification of persons for elective local offices:

"Sec. 40. Disqualification. The following persons are disqualified from running for any elective local position:

"(2) Fugitives from justice in criminal or in political cases here and abroad."

Dy Jr., according to Siquian's petition, has been accused as the mastermind in 27 counts of grand theft, car smuggling, car theft and insurance fraud in Los Angeles, California. Two warrants of arrest have been issued by the Los Angeles courts for Dy for "grand theft auto" and "receiving stolen goods," and bail was fixed at $750,000. Three Filipino co-accused were arrested, convicted and imprisoned but Dy himself evaded arrest by flying home to the Philippines.

The gang's modus operandi, according to US newspapers included purchasing cars on installment, reporting them as stolen, later on collecting insurance claims and finally smuggling the stolen cars to the Philippines and selling them here.

In an ironic turnabout later, Siquian himself became the subject of a disqualification case filed by Constante A. Foronda, also a former mayor, for being a "nuisance candidate."

Of the two disqualification cases, the Comelec decided the case against Siquian first, although it was filed later. Siquian was declared a "nuisance candidate." No mention was made of the disqualification case against Dy. It was as if it didn't exist.

There was no hearing, no formal submission of evidence as exhibits. The Comelec's first division relied only on "certifications" gathered by provincial election officers. It remained silent on attached contrary evidence for Siquian. Siquian appealed to the Comelec en banc.

The commission en banc sustained the decision of the first division. Its decision was "promulgated" on May 8, 2001 but was served on Siquian's lawyer only on May 11, a Friday, three days before the May 14 elections, (in spite of the fact that the lawyer's office was located only "a stone's throw" away from the Comelec's main office in Intramuros) thus giving Siquian scant time to appeal. Nevertheless, the Supreme Court gave due course to Siquian's petition for certiorari with preliminary injunction and temporary restraining order.

Last June 19, the tribunal issued a restraining order, "effective immediately and continuing until further orders from this court," ordering the Comelec and the Provincial Board of Canvassers of Isabela not to enforce the Comelec en banc resolution disqualifying Siquian, not to canvass the results of the voting for governor of Isabela and not to proclaim any winner.

In the meantime, Siquian's petition to disqualify Dy Jr. was denied by the Comelec's First Division. Siquian filed a motion for reconsideration with the Comelec en banc where it is still pending until now.

* * *

Malacañang sources have indirectly confirmed a Cabinet reshuffle to improve the public acceptability of the administration. Three or four Cabinet members will get new assignments, President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo is also looking for a highly respected person to head the Presidential Commission on Good Government where the ill-gotten wealth cases against the Marcoses are not moving.

Those most likely to be revamped are the Department of Interior and Local Government, Department of Transportation and Communications, Department of Social Welfare and Development and one minor agency. The Palace has earlier denied such a plan, but don't believe it.

For the DILG post, the choice seems to have narrowed down to MMDA Chair Benjamin Abalos and former Manila Mayor Mel Lopez, partymate of the President and head of the Lakas chapter in Manila.

Secretary Joey Lina—who was burned by the mishandling of the Cheng kidnapping case where the President was embarrassed and forced to apologize to the victim's family—may be transferred to either the DOTC or the DSWD. Transportation Secretary Pantaleon Alvarez will most likely be assigned to a major government financial institution. It is not clear what will happen to Social Welfare Secretary Dinky Soliman but there are talks she may replace Palace Chief of Staff Renato Corona who has lately been "marginalized" because of an alleged power struggle within the immediate circle of the presidency.

Others mentioned for the DILG post were NBI Director Reynaldo Wycoco and former Interior Secretary Luis Santos. Sen. Robert Barbers was also offered by the Palace to return to his former post but the senator politely declined the offer.

Of the DILG candidates, Lopez seems to have the "inside track," according to sources, because he has a good record in handling public demonstrations which, because of what happened last May, is scary to the Macapagal administration.

Telling stories

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

THE RESTAURANT/BAR is a little kitsch. The curved seats circling long tables in corners—for bigger gatherings—are upholstered green, the kind that glows even in the dark. Soft red light bathes the floor, while globules of multicolored light intermittently wink from round apertures on the ceiling. It is almost 10 p.m., and the place is preparing for karaoke, or videoke, singing.

The preparations are elaborate and almost ritualistic. Women in uniform flit to and fro testing the microphone, the speakers and the screen from which would flash the lyrics and video clips accompanying the songs. It is no ordinary television screen. It is a huge LCD mat that feeds from a projector. Later, the images would dwarf the people who are singing in front of them. At 10 on the dot, someone announces proudly that the floor is open for singing.

We have already eaten elsewhere and so have been ordering only beer and *pulutan*—calamares and chicharon. We can be anywhere in Makati, Malate, or Quezon City, homes to once proud restaurants that have long yielded to the charms, or rough embrace, of the videoke. But we are not. We are in the heart of San Francisco.

It is a Monday night, the sun has just set when we dive into the dive at 9 p.m. We went earlier to another place where Filipinos hang out but it was closed. The place we are downing beers now is owned by a Filipino, a huge spread that includes a casino, which is heavily patronized by the Chinese. The buzz is that either he has been fantastically lucky—and some Filipinos here have been so, having taken risks on property and won the jackpot, like true-blue gamblers—or he is fronting for other people. Maybe the Chinese, they are there in plentiful numbers.

The patrons, who are predominantly Filipinos, do not have to be persuaded to sing. They have forgone the ritual of the preliminary coaxing of presumably reluctant singers. They take to the microphone like people born to it, singing with a gusto and skill that are enviable. They sing mostly Filipino songs, the lyrics flashed big and loud on the screen alongside images of the "old country." We have a marvelous singer in our group, a near-professional one, and we egg him to bedazzle the crowd with his brilliance. He smiles wryly and says he would like nothing better, but to do that, he would have to add his name to an already long list and wait his turn. Which could take upwards of an hour.

I think it is a good system. I remember that singing in karaoke bars in Metro Manila has become more dangerous than driving in its streets. How many homicides have happened because people did it Their Way?

It is midnight, and we take leave of one another. There's work tomorrow, and it won't do to drag one's self out of bed with a nasty hangover. A Chinese woman is singing when we take to our feet, the Chinese characters flashed big and loud on the screen alongside images of her old country. Her singsong and occasionally shrill voice pierces the room. It grates a little on the ear. One of us says we picked just the right time to leave.

I say now we know how we sound singing Filipino songs to the Chinese.

* * *

How do we make things work in the Philippines? Or can we make things work in the Philippines?

We have been talking about it the whole day. Most of the people I have been talking to have gotten ahead in life, at least by the standards of being financially as stable as a rock. They are eager to give back to the country their heart still calls home. But many are dismayed by the seemingly endless cycle of crises besetting the country. I do not disabuse them of their dismay, I have no wish to give a picture-postcard view of their home country just so they will feel good about it. But I suggest that there is hope. I would not be there still dreaming of changing the landscape if I didn't think it could be changed. Someone says the sensation is not unlike pushing a rock up a hill, only to see the rock fall down again and again. I agree. But I remember that Albert Camus said in his essay, "The Myth of Sisyphus," that there is also a sense of accomplishment and victory in the very effort to push the rock up a hill, whether it falls down or not. Maybe the rock will fall down, but such is life: it is not a national failing, it is a human predicament. Someone says, ah, yes, but he wonders when Filipinos will learn to act a little more sensibly. I say the fact that we have achieved two Edsas must suggest that we are capable of heroic things. We are not unwilling to die for our country, I say. We are simply unwilling to live for it. The trick probably lies in learning how to do the second since we are already past masters at the first.

Later in the day, over a more convivial setting, we get to telling stories. They tell me that Filipinos are the biggest Asian immigrant group in the United States and the second biggest—after the Mexicans—group of all immigrants in the United States. You can get by in Daly City in California knowing only *barok* English. Someone suggests that Filipinos should really put up signs in shops equivalent to "*Se habla Español,*" like, "*Nagta-Tagalog dito.*"

Yet despite their awesome numbers, Filipinos in the United States have somehow been unable to seize political power, or become a huge lobby or pressure group. Many successful Filipino franchises in the Philippines put up shop in America thinking they have a captive market there, only to be cruelly thwarted in their expectations. Filipinos do not naturally prefer Filipino products: not in the Philippines, not in the United States.

In Daly City at least, a Filipino has become a councilman. But he did so by doing a Ramos. He broke an agreement with another Filipino that whoever lost in a Filipino convention would not run. He lost but ran, splitting the Filipino vote—but miraculously won anyway. The story sets people to talking about the problems in their own organizations. Then and now, people leave organizations when they are not elected to head them, and form their own organizations. The results are not always as miraculous, or even as happy, as the one that visited the Filipino councilman of Daly City.

Maybe, I suggest, if Filipinos in the United States could learn to act a little more sensibly, Filipinos in the Philippines might.

'Public trial' means availing of TV coverage

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

A READER called up to lament the special privilege enjoyed by the country's No. 1 prison inmate. It seems that after the swearing into office of Sen. Loi Estrada and San Juan Mayor JV Ejercito, that evening a victory party was held right in the auditorium of the Veterans Memorial Medical Center premises for something like 250 friends and relatives of the deposed president, catered by Via Mare. What's going on? queries this reader, adding that he thought there are no "special privileges." Then too, someone reports that a mansion is being built on Banaba Road, in the exclusive North Forbes Park subdivision in Makati, which is under the name of Eduardo Cojuangco's right-hand man Ramon Ang, but that it actually belongs to someone else with a predilection for mansions.

* * *

In a recent conversation, Government Corporate Counsel Amado Valdez, he pointed out to me that the Constitution, in Sec. 14 (2), Article III, the "Bill of Rights," provides that in all criminal prosecutions, the accused shall enjoy the right, among others, to have a "speedy, impartial and public trial." Valdez noted that a "public trial," in our age of great electronic advancement, should not be read to mean just coverage by the print media, but most certainly by television and radio, especially in events of great national concern. The 21st century, he argued, is the golden age of television reporting, and in fact the US judicial system, on which our own system is based, recognizes this in various decisions.

I agree. News of vital import around the world is related to the global village by worldwide news networks such as CNN and BBC. The print medium has taken a back seat to TV; the same is true in our country, with regard to TV and radio coverage. Confining the Estrada trial to coverage by the print media is an anachronism, ignoring the giant leaps in electronic program.

* * *

Deposed President Estrada's trial is of national concern because this is the first time that a president is brought to trial for plunder. In fact, the Constitution, in Section 7 of that same Article III says that "The right of the people to information of matters of public concern shall be recognized." Vital access to information, especially in a crucial proceeding such as the trial of a former president, cannot be limited to the print media alone for many reasons, among them being the many limitations of that medium and the possibility of manipulation of interpretative news by those with vested interests. Whereas, TV coverage is the most truthful and conducive to public education in the processes of law. It can also guarantee orderly procedure if properly regulated.

We hope the Supreme Court would reconsider its 8-6 decision to bar live coverage of the trial.

* * *

Earlier I had mentioned the desire of President Macapagal to win over the Christian population of Mindanao to the side of the ongoing peace process between the government and the Muslim secessionist groups, rather than the all-out war policy of her predecessor, which only complicated the problems in the big island. I had commented that there is apparently a great need to conduct an information and education campaign among the Christian population there, to sell peace as a better alternative, especially in the light of the resumption of peace talks with the MILF in Tripoli two weeks ago. I had argued that in this score the government needs the help of various sectors, such as the political and church leaders, the leaders of the 42 chambers of commerce in Mindanao and the various NGOs.

* * *

Vice President Tito Guingona, in a recent speech, called for a full and focused development of Mindanao as a way to help out the poor Mindanaoans, both Christians and Muslims, while absorbing the poor of Metro Manila and giving them a new life in Mindanao; moving out Metro Manila's urban poor will not only decongest the metropolis and defuse the socio-economic and political tensions here. But first, argues the Vice President, the government must lead the way. Guingona is calling for the transfer of the seat of power from Malacañang to the fringes of Bukidnon and Misamis Oriental in Central Mindanao. Under his proposal, the financial and commercial center will remain in Manila, but the administration of government will shift to Mindanao.

* * *

Guingona argues that many nations have transferred power for expansion to great advantage, citing Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohammad's transfer of the government center from Kuala Lumpur to Putra Jaya about 45 minutes from KL; the move from the Brazilian capital of Rio de Janeiro to the new city of Brasilia. The Vice President pointed out that such transfer, which will include agencies of government and their personnel, will perk up the region's development. For instance, he argues, the needed infrastructure such as a railway system from Davao to Cagayan de Oro through the new frontiers of Bukidnon could be built by the build-operate-transfer system, and once in place, the railway would spur routes to service the Cotabato, Agusan, Surigao, Zamboanga and Lanao provinces. Transferring the seat of power south will attract some vital industries to relocate because of Mindanao's cheaper power and access tó raw materials. He speaks of developing Basilan and Sulu, with processing plants for seaweeds or agar-agar for export, and high-value cash crops in Maguindanao. What's good, he stresses, is that the island is largely free from typhoons.

* * *

I agree wholeheartedly with the Vice President about the superpotentials of Mindanao. There's no question that a transfer of the government there would spur the island's development. The idea is challenging. But unfortunately, at the moment it has to remain a lofty dream, for even if the leadership has the political will, logistics will be just as necessary. Even Mahathir's pet project of Putra Jaya and its complimentary satellite state-of-the art communications center, called Cyber Jaya, has failed to take off yet despite their proximity to KL, because of the continuing Asian financial crisis. Our government still has to come to grips with the economic crisis, our huge budgetary deficit and the peace and order problem, before we can dream of developing Mindanao. But it's a dream worth sustaining.

* * *

The Retrouvaille Weekend Seminar, the reconciliation program devised by Fr. Dave Clay for couples whose marriages seem at the moment to be made in hell instead of in heaven, is once again being offered this Friday, July 13, to Sunday, July 15, at the Merciful Sisters Convent in Tagaytay City. This live-in weekend and post-weekend program, which has helped many married couples repair and reinvigorate their damaged marriage, is being conducted once more at the request of numerous other couples who want to save their marriage. Interested couples may call Father Clay, Tel. Nos. 523-3361, 525-0308, 0918-902-0511, or Tom and Ruby del Castillo, Tel. 931-8413 and 932-3750, or Tessie Reyes at 0917-538-8970. All calls will be treated in the strictest confidence.

Can Israel afford to get rid of Arafat?

NEWS ANALYSIS

Christian Chaise

GAZA CITY—Israel may be tempted to try to "eliminate" Yasser Arafat and his self-rule Palestinian Authority in the face of ongoing violence, but the Palestinians warn the Jewish state would pay dearly for such a move.

Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon received a direct warning from French President Jacques Chirac on Thursday about any efforts to weaken Arafat amid growing concern Israel might take a radical step to do away with its nemesis.

The speculation was heightened after the Maariv paper published excerpts from what it said was a top secret study made by the domestic Shin Beth security services, which concluded Israel would be better off with Arafat out of the way.

"I challenge Sharon and his soldiers to do this," says Ismail Abu Shanab, one of the top leaders of the militant Palestinian movement Hamas in the Gaza Strip. "He knows he will lose many of his soldiers."

The alleged Shin Beth report was completed in October 2000 when Ehud Barak was still prime minister and hopes were strong for a lasting peace deal between the two sides, particularly after Barak withdrew Israeli troops from south Lebanon.

But with the Palestinian uprising at fever pitch, Barak was unceremoniously tossed out of office by voters in favor of the hardline Sharon—who, ministers have suggested, may try to forcibly expel Arafat from the territories.

Sharon has at least stepped up the rhetoric against the Palestinian leader, calling him a "murderer" and "pathological liar" and comparing him to wanted Saudi billionaire Osama bin Laden.

Maariv said Thursday the would-be June 13 ceasefire, which has failed to end the violence on the ground, had reached the "point of no return" and that the only question for Sharon was not whether to get Arafat out of the way but when to do it.

Sharon "wants to finish what he started in 1982 in Beirut," says Palestinian analyst Mohammed Hamza, referring to Israel's attack on the Lebanese capital when it was the headquarters of Arafat's PLO. Sharon was defense minister at the time.

Taieb Abdelrahim, secretary general of the Palestinian Authority, says the latest hard talk coming from the Israeli side "reminds us of what they were saying one week before the Beirut invasion."

"He is dealing with us now with that same mentality," Abdelrahim says.

According to Maariv, the Shin Beth report concludes that a post-Arafat Palestinian Authority would not fall into the hands of militant groups like Hamas and Islamic Jihad but would be more "pragmatic" and secular.

But the report was finished before the latest *intifada*, or uprising, which has bettered the reputation of militant groups in the eyes of many Palestinians—and hurt the image of Arafat and any efforts to make peace.

Arafat was "very mistaken" in declaring a ceasefire, says Shanab, underlining that it is the Israelis who ultimately need the veteran Palestinian leader to keep the violence from spinning out of control.

"They begged Arafat to come and control (the last) *intifada*," from 1987-1993, Shenab says, because Israel didn't want to run the risk of having too many soldiers in the line of fire.

"If the Israelis come to control the intifada, they lose their soldiers. But if Arafat controls the intifada, they lose nothing," he says.

General Abdelrazek al-Majeida, head of Palestinian general security in the Gaza Strip, says Sharon "won't let Islamist groups become the new power" and so will send in the troops to retake land given to Arafat's self-rule authority.

But Abdelrahim cautions: "It would be very easy for them to come in. But how would they get out?"

AFP

To excel at something, anything

COMMENTARY

Dean Jorge Bocobo

THE FOURTH of July holiday last week, American Independence Day, came and went this year with more than the usual number of fireworks and marching bands all over the United States, or so friends and relatives there have told me. Maybe the Americans are taking a page out of the Chinese book to scare away the demons of a slowing economy and to thank the gods for an era of unprecedented prosperity and growth. (Although many American cities put on spectacular fireworks shows, the best finale I have ever witnessed was a pyrotechnic rendition of Niagara Falls. This had a torrential river of fire, flowing and falling from a bridge across the Ohio River in Cincinnati, with symphony orchestras playing the Overture of 1812, and half-a-million patriotic Americans swilling beer and chomping hamburgers and hotdogs.)

Recall that after World War II ended, the United States "granted" the Philippines her independence in 1946, making July 4 also our Independence Day. It would have been like having Dec. 31 as one's birthday—a celebration is guaranteed—except for the fact that the Filipinos already declared their independence and sovereignty way back in 1898. But America had other ideas, "purchasing" her, *ala*-Louisiana, from Spain in the 1898 Treaty of Paris for $50 million, then proceeding to make war on the Filipino founding fathers (and mothers). During the Philippine-American War which ensued, hundreds of thousands died, mostly Filipinos but also many Americans. In the end, America would rule the Philippines for nearly half a century. Perhaps if the US congress had used the term "return" in the official documents declaring the Philippines to be independent of American rule, we could have avoided half a century of acrimony and resentment.

It was not until President Diosdado Macapagal switched the official observance to June 12, during his term in office, that the annual rite has correctly commemorated the establishment of Philippine Independence in 1898, not 1946, in Kawit, Cavite, not Washington, D.C. Since the switch, the Fourth of July has been known as Philippine-American Friendship Day. This sounds like the breakup of a turbulent relationship, where the lovers decide to call it quits and agree to just "be friends."

As a former colonial master and presently the world's superpower, America has been, rightly and wrongly, the subject and target of long-running political and ideological movements that I believe are primarily inspired by a deep-seated resentment for the path taken by our nation and the role that America played in it. It is perhaps a deserved resentment, but in which the continuing obsession of some people strikes me as a puzzling ideological fixation.

At first, this movement was rooted in the legitimate aspirations of the Filipino people to be free from the shackles of Spanish and American colonialism, whose fetters and oppressions they had every right to overthrow. This idealism and hope in nationalism is epitomized by Manuel L. Quezon's famous statement, expressing preference for slavery in a hell run by Filipinos than royalty in a heaven run by Americans. Now that the punishing gods have granted us Quezon's choice, perhaps to test our patriotism with the infernal performance of Filipinos running the Philippines, it is hardly cricket for us to continue to blame our former colonizers for our self-made Hades.

Perhaps some of our more strident demagogues and mass organizers ought to train their critical senses on the failures and weaknesses of Filipinos themselves. Who is to blame for our filthy streets and ramshackle local neighborhoods, where able-bodied citizens idly loll, guts jutting, gums flapping, thumbs texting, ignoring the squalor, disorder and decay that a little daily elbow grease and an ethic of individual civic duty could alleviate.

Even the poverty of our people is not something imposed from the outside, as some ideologues insist. I believe that partly it is our inability to develop a coherent and effective response to the new world order called globalization that prevents us from sharing in the world's prosperity. Our response so far has been largely limited by the politics of resentment, which sees sinister motives in the normal operation of markets, economies and human beings.

Having a share of that expanding basket of global goods and services does not require that we first have a heaven run by Filipinos, full of saints and Ph.D.s, although those would obviously help. In an interdependent world, survival can be guaranteed by excellence in just a few niches. Take the example of tiny Finland, which used to produce little more than yak butter and hoarfrost. Now, with Nokia they've conquered every *tiangge* from here to Virra Mall. The lesson is that to gain respect and secure a place at the table, we only have to be really good at something, anything!

The demand that "safety nets" be provided for industries and sectors that will be affected by global competition, strikes me as a weak, defeatist strategy, if it hampers our ultimate competitiveness. Better a strong offense. If we already know that we are uncompetitive in one arena, why should we try to save it instead of moving our productive forces into one where we have the advantage? While giving its proponents an aura of being Deeply Concerned with capital letters, it actually lulls our people into complacency, promoting the myth that we can choose whether to compete in the world economy or not. We have no such option. No archipelago is an island on this one world. We must adapt, we must compete and we must make ourselves useful to the rest of humanity, or else, we shall surely perish.

Our friends, the Americans, learned that a long time ago, and it shows in their success. Happy Birthday, friend.

'Ear snipping' photo

READERS' ADVOCATE

Raul J. Palabrica

THE QUESTION of whether the INQUIRER commits a disservice to its readers when it publishes "gory" photos arose once more when its June 30 issue carried on the front page the picture of the ear of a British national being cut by a kidnapper.

The photo was a reprint of a part of the videotape presented by the British Embassy to a select audience that showed how the kidnappers of a British national snipped the victim's ear to convince the victim's relatives that their P10-million ransom demand could lead to more serious consequences if it was not promptly heeded.

The accompanying news report said that the tape made a strong impression on the victim's relatives. They did not bother to bargain for a lower amount and immediately paid the ransom. Upon his release, the victim left the country posthaste and vowed never to set foot on this part of the world again.

The picture did not sit well with many readers. They found it "horrible and disgusting and unworthy of publication in a newspaper that prides itself in being a responsible messenger of the news."

A reader called to say "by publishing the photo, the INQUIRER unwittingly allowed itself to be the propaganda arm of the kidnappers. You practically sent a message to the relatives of future kidnap victims that it is in their best interest not to refuse ransom demands lest they put in jeopardy the lives of the victims."

The readers' complaints were a virtual repeat of the reaction to the front-page photo of the INQUIRER's Dec. 31, 2000 issue which showed the blood-stained body of 6-year-old Crizele Acuzin, one of the many victims of the bombing of an LRT train in last year's holiday season. The crime remains unsolved up to the present.

In protest over the "ear snipping" photo, another reader said he would terminate his subscription of the INQUIRER and undertake a boycott campaign among his friends unless it leaves a satisfactory explanation on the picture.

Impact

The letter that really came down hard on the newspaper over the photo came from e-mail address wslorenz@info.com.ph.

The reader wrote: "We understand that the truth shall set us free but what you have painted on your front page today regarding 'Kidnappers snip victim's ear for P10M' does more damage to our beloved country and our children in the name of free press and brisk sales. The immediate impact of your story is the negativism and despair that it triggers among us citizens who are doing our best to make our already battered country a better place to live in.

"You have done it before (as in the very bloody and graphic picture of the child in the LRT bombing incident) and you are doing it again. Media have to play a very responsible and critical role during these times, which has to be that of nation-building instead of nation-bashing.

"When you print the truth, please think of the bigger picture, which is the truth that our country needs hope—more than facts sensationalized on the front page. What is your intent? To inform? To encourage more Filipinos to emigrate? To discourage tourists? To sow fear? Or to build?"

I brought to the attention of the editors the complaints I received about the photo during last Monday's regular editorial assessment meeting. It turned out that the other members of the editorial staff were also at the receiving end of similar complaints from relatives and friends, as what happened in the case of Crizele Acuzin.

The editors who found nothing wrong with the "ear snipping" picture argued that the news value of the photo justified its publication. It enhanced the veracity of the accompanying news report which came from a reliable source, no less than the embassy of the country where the victim comes from.

In addition, the pro-publication editors said the play-up is necessary to "shock" the public into knowing the horrible state that the crime of kidnapping had reached in our country. The readers should be made to understand that kidnapping is not simply a problem that is left to the police to attend to and solve, but is something that requires the participation and cooperation of the entire citizenry.

Rounding up these arguments, the editors said that compared to photos published by reputable newspapers elsewhere in the world that won the Pulitzer prize for photo journalism, the picture in question is rather tame.

The photo gave only a suggestion that the snipping was about to be done. No blood was seen shed that could have turned the readers' stomach. To top it all, the photo was grainy; it lacked sharpness in color and detail that can make it stand out among the black-colored text of the front page.

Overkill

The editors opposed to the publication took the position that the photo was unnecessary. Even without it, the readers would have understood the circumstances behind the payment of the P10-million ransom considering that the news report gave a clear and detailed account of the incident.

And instead of enhancing the information value of the news, the photo may have turned off the readers and discouraged them from reading the rest of the news.

The anti-publication editors shared the observation of some readers that the INQUIRER might have unwittingly added to the fear that has bedeviled the public about the kidnap syndicates which appear to have run rings around the law enforcement agencies of the government.

The subtle message the photo may have conveyed to the relatives of kidnap victims who are still in the custody of their captors is they better pay up fast and in full, no bargains or discounts, otherwise a part of the victim's body or even his life may be put in very serious danger.

I share the position of the editors who expressed opposition to the publication of the photo. In addition to the arguments earlier raised, I believe the news value of a photo should not be the overriding consideration in deciding whether it should be published or not.

With the problems of the Abu Sayyaf, threats of destabilization and the shaky peace and order situation presently battering the country, any news or photo that unnecessarily adds to those problems should be given the last priority in the pages of the newspaper.

* * *

The readers' advocate may be reached at the following address: "The Readers' Advocate" c/o Philippine Daily Inquirer, Chino Roces Avenue corner Yague and Mascardo Streets, Makati City. Or through fax Nos. 897-4793 to 94, or readersadvocate@inquirer.com.ph.

THEY SAID

Living like Christ

"What the Church needs now is not more money but more determination to live like Christ."

—Jaime Cardinal Sin, opposing the collection of tithes

Price of friendship

"Friendship with the US is equivalent to iron fists clamped around our necks."

—Millet Gobrin-Morante of Kilusan Para sa Demokrasya

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Oreta bill won't imperil PE or school sports

THIS is with reference to a letter of Aparicio Mequi, president of the Philippine Association of Physical Educators Inc. (PAPE), published on July 4, 2001.

Mequi is calling on President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo to veto the Governance for Basic Education Act on the ground that the abolition of the Bureau of Physical Education and School Sports will further imperil physical education and sports development in the country.

His main concern is the supposed transfer of all functions relating to school sports and physical education to the Philippine Sports Commission.

However, the PAPE president failed to read the entire provision, under Section 3 of the bill, which would have clarified matters and put his concerns to rest.

Only functions, programs and activities of the Department of Education, Culture and Sports related to sports competition will be transferred to the PSC, and not the program for school sports and physical fitness which shall remain part of the basic education curriculum and will therefore, still be handled by the DECS.

It certainly does not mean that physical education and sports development will not be prioritized under this new setup. In fact, more focus will be given to these two areas considering sports competition will be handled by a more competent body, while sufficient attention shall now be afforded curriculum programs.

At this point, it will be far more advantageous to enact the Oreta bill. The public educational system is faced with various problems primarily because what little there is of funds has to be shared by so many agencies under the DECS. It becomes even more difficult to rationalize the budget when much is needed for basic education alone, yet there are others, which have to get a share of the pie that is not getting any bigger.—**TERESITA S. CASTILLO, chief of staff, Office of Sen. Teresa Aquino-Oreta**

Overcharging FX drivers

THERE are FX drivers who are abusive in the charging of fares, especially during rush hours. Just because people are willing to do anything just to get home as soon as possible doesn't mean that they can be forced to pay more than the regular fare.

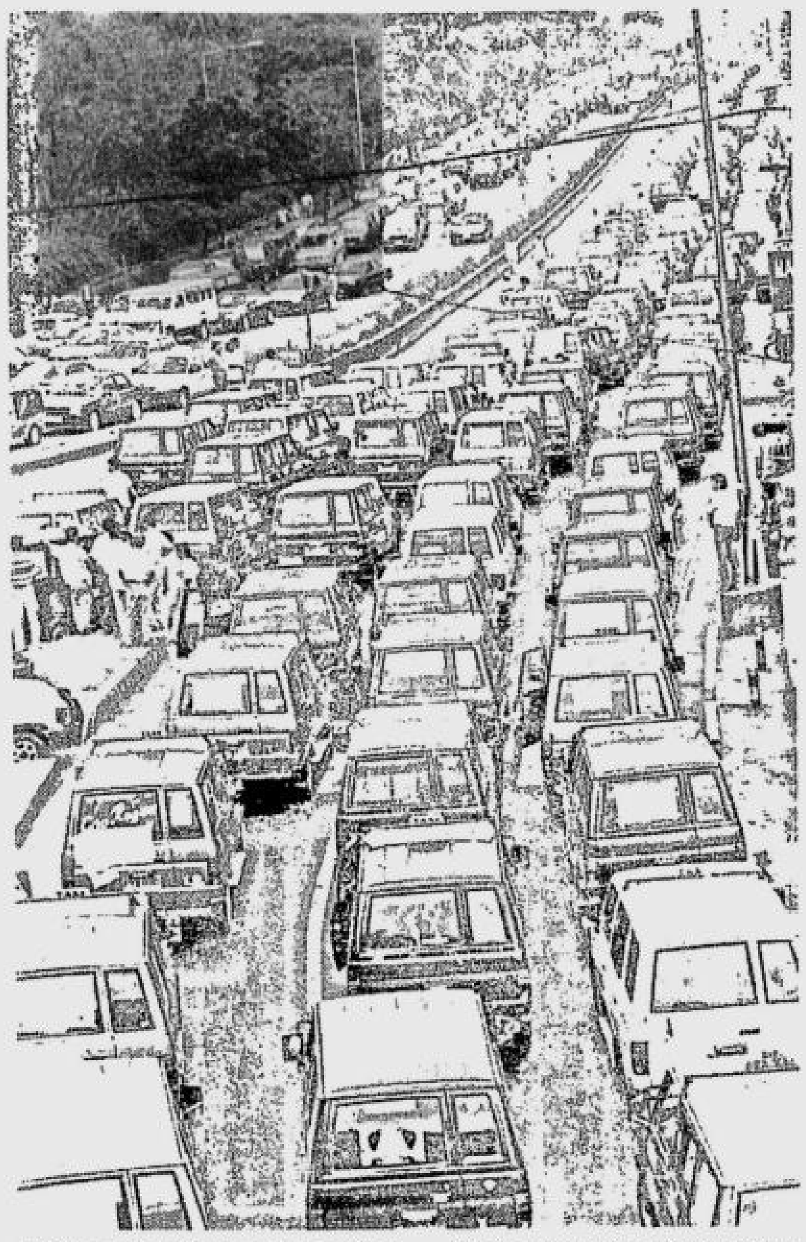
I ride FX taxis regularly. Every day, from school, I go home paying the same amount of P10 from Katipunan to Filinvest, the village I live in. However, there are times when the driver of an FX taxi I'm riding tells me that I must add another P10 to what I usually pay. I would normally ask when fares were increased.

They'd say fares had gone up since a while ago or that it has been like that even before. I would then retaliate with "*Bakit diyes lang kahapon?*"

The name of the driver would be the best information I could get but I doubt if the driver would give it. I'd usually write down the plate number, name of the operator and the time and date it happened instead. However, I'd set all that aside but never got around to doing anything about it. I have lost the list of six incidents. Now, I'm fed up with this dilemma.

The most recent incident I encountered happened last Friday, June 29, 2001 at around 5:30 p.m. The FX taxi operator is Dan-Ric Transport Services. It was a maroon FX taxi with plate number ULH 235. The driver was arrogant enough to tell my companion and me to get off if we're not going to pay him the amount he insisted on.

We didn't do it because it's hard to get a ride during the rush hour. I told him instead to drop us off at a place he thought worth the P10 we each paid him. But this wasn't the reason I got irritated. He kept on talking and talking and specified that he has been a driver for five years and that he charged P20, while other FX taxi drivers usually charged P10, for the same distance. This ticked me off. I restrained myself from swearing or doing anything rash.



Obviously, this particular driver has been cheating his passengers for five years already. I pray that the public transportation drivers who cheat their passengers listen to their conscience.—**ANGELO O. FESTEJO, address withheld on request**

Remove the business from ROTC

THIS is in response to Col. Jose Z. Mabanta's assertions in the June 29, 2001 issue of your paper. Mabanta is shortsighted and narrow-minded enough to defend the Reserve Officers Training Corps program while at the same time making sweeping remarks about leftists. I am not trying to defend the National Democratic Front as I definitely do not adhere to its principles, but Mabanta's accusations are just irritating as he seems not to give due clarification to the hopeless faults of the ROTC program. As many of us have probably observed, the ROTC program is a money-making venture. I can only imagine the millions, or probably the billions of pesos made every year by those who sell fatigue uniforms with all the patches, insignias and other paraphernalia that go with it.

Five years ago, when I was still attending Military Science 11, our platoon was told by its officer that we may not bring snacks for our breaks as they themselves are selling sandwiches and softdrinks. One set of ROTC uniform costs more than a thousand pesos, add to this many other fees extorted by the cadets' superiors during the course of the semester. These military entrepreneurs are really going to lose stashes of cash should the abolition of the ROTC be approved. This is probably the reason why Mabanta and his cohorts are hell-bent on defending the required ROTC program, and not some principle like discipline and building character. Are they trying to insult the intelligence of the Filipinos?

With these considerations, I would like to see the removal of the ROTC as a prerequisite for graduation at the very least.—**GREGGY S. GATAL, D-106 Hardin ng Bougainvillea, University of the Philippines, Diliman, Quezon City**

ROTC grads fought the good fight

I WAS a Reserve Officers Training Corps volunteer who fought in Bataan. I was master sergeant of Able Company, 2nd Anti-Tank Bn., 2nd Regular Division, USAFFE. This was a unit composed mostly of ROTC undergraduates from the Ateneo, Letran, University of the Philippines, La Salle and Far Eastern University. I write, therefore, from a different perspective and with more authority than others who have not experienced fighting an ugly war like World War II. Allow me therefore to react to the column of Michael L. Tan last June 21 on the ROTC.

Tan wants the ROTC to be abolished in support of the stand of the University Belt Consortium based on the findings in the United States that the ROTC serves no useful purpose. In addition, he claims that if similar studies were conducted in the Philippines, "*hilaw* (not well-cooked or not ripe)" would better describe the products of ROTC training.

Napakasakit, Kuya Mike! I consider this statement "the most unkindest cut of all" and it deserves a quick response as it is not supported by evidence.

For starters, I recommend for Tan's reading the following related literature written from the eyes of the Filipinos: "A Silent Sacrifice" by Col. Venicio Jalandoni (ret.); "Under the Red Sun" by Fr. Forbes J. Monaghan, S.J.; "Under Japanese Rule," edited by Dr. Helen N. Mendoza with introduction by Renato Constantino; "Philippine Army: The First 100 Years" by Col. Rodolfo S. Obaniana; "Guerrilla Padre in Mindanao" by Fr. J. Edward Haggerty, S.J.; and "Where (Blue) Eagles Dared to Tread," by Aida Rivera Ford.

Admittedly, the ROTC cadets were ill-trained, ill-equipped, ill-fed and even discriminated against in pay and treatment, but they fought the good fight and helped hold the Japanese at bay in Bataan for three months until the Americans who were half-ready were able to regroup in Australia.

The first casualty of the war was Lt. Cesar Basa who trained as an ROTC cadet at the Ateneo before joining the Philippine Air Force. Many of the ROTC officers in Bataan distinguished themselves in combat and were awarded decorations. Among them were Lt. Nicanor T. Jimenez (UP), father of INQUIRER editor Letty Jimenez-Magsanoc; Lt. Rafael G. Estrada (UP); Lt. Artemio Alejo (UP); Lt. Venicio Jalandoni (Ateneo); Lt. Antonio Vinluan (Ateneo); Lt. Ernesto Jimenez (UP), father of INQUIRER columnist Rina Jimenez-David; Lt. Rafael G. Zagala (Ateneo), the only ROTC officer to become a general in the Armed Forces of the Philippines. By no means were they mediocre or half-baked.

The organizer of the Hunters ROTC guerrillas was a product of the ROTC. The ROTC cadets of the Ateneo de Cagayan (now Xavier University) became the nucleus of the guerrillas in Northern Mindanao.

The death of Mark Welson Chua, the ROTC cadet who exposed the corruption at the UST Department of Military Science and Tactics, should be an argument for the retention of ROTC training. It must have been the noble ROTC tradition as exemplified by the ROTC cadets who fought in Bataan and later in the resistance movement which gave him the courage to expose corruption at the risk of losing his life. The war veterans salute him as a hero and martyr. Brother Chua had a mission as an ROTC cadet.—**DR. EDMUNDO F. NOLASCO, Defenders of Bataan; editor, The Defenders**

IF you have any complaints, grievances or suggestions about the treatment of news and photos by the Inquirer, you may write to the Readers' Advocate, Philippine Daily Inquirer, Chino Roces Avenue, corner Yague and Mascardo Streets, City of Makati or send a fax to Nos. 897-4793, 897-4794, or e-mail readersadvocate@inquirer.com.ph

Writers of letters to the editor are requested to include their complete address and telephone or pager number or e-mail address for verification purposes. The Inquirer will not publish any letter unless such information is supplied.

Desperately seeking pension

I DON'T know of any other way to collect my veteran's pension. I think I have looked into all possible alternatives in order to avail of my pension (I started making follow-ups about 20 years ago) but until now it seems a hopeless case.

I have submitted all the requirements needed to the Philippine Veterans' Affairs Office. Almost all of my contemporaries in the same rooster of the Women Auxiliary Service Bohol Battalion have long received their pensions, and some have died already. I alone remain left out.

I am in my early 80s and suffer from arthritis and hypertension and my pension as a retired public school teacher is so meager that it cannot even support my need for maintenance medicine and food. The PVAO must end this unfairness to me.—**NATIVIDAD B. CABALLO, Claim No. OVF 0790-012320, San Vicente, Baclayon, Bohol**

Don't abolish the ROTC

RECENTLY, we heard of Reserve Officers Training Corps cadets walking out of their regular Sunday formation and lately burning their uniform as a protest, because they want the abolition or scrapping of this subject in the four-year college curriculum. I am very saddened about this. Do they really know what they are doing and why?

They view the ROTC only as more expenses for them, widespread corruption among officers, compulsory buying of snacks from their officers, doing nothing under the heat of the sun, hazing, etc.

If these are happening, why don't they expose and oppose the ROTC's continuation? Or are they part of these illegal activities? Perhaps they belong to the weaker sex.

I am 45 years old and at present still an enlisted reservist of the National Capital Region-Regional Community Defense Group, and I pity these cadets. I would like to share some of my views on why the ROTC should be retained and not abolished (just like the Spanish subject).

1. In the ROTC, cadets are trained to be the future leaders, because it develops strong, disciplined, courteous and law abiding citizens.

2. The military training develops skills, stamina and spirit. Skills in military tactics, weapons, etc. Stamina because of the physical fitness regimen that is part of the course. Spirit for the love of our country, camaraderie, unity, commitment, etc.

3. Much of the blood given to indigent patients and those in emergency situations were donated by the ROTC cadets and reservists. The ROTC units and the reserve force were adjudged as the most outstanding blood donors by the Red Cross.

4. The wearing of a military uniform exemplifies courage, integrity and loyalty. I am very proud to wear my uniform.

5. The ROTC graduates and reservists are the backbone of the Armed Forces of the Philippines, because 80 percent of the military organization is composed of the reservists. The other source of our reserve force are the few graduates of the Basic Citizens Military Training (BCMT). A large number of troops and a strong reserve force are very vital to our national defense.

6. An ROTC graduate has better chances of employment in the nation's armed forces and this can ensure the income to continue one's studies until he finishes a college.

7. ROTC cadets have proven their worth and their reliability in countless periods of national or local emergencies of various types.

We should not be discouraged by the "bad eggs" in the ROTC organization. Their corruption and other illegal activities should be reported to the higher authorities. The shallow reasons being raised are not sufficient, to my mind, to warrant the abolition of a program that has proven its value in nation-building.—**JORGE V. LUCERO 11H-0763 (PA), Battalion S7, 1302nd CDC, Quezon City Hall**

We need God's help and mercy

IT'S been almost a year since our people have been repeatedly assured by the military that the Abu Sayyaf bandits will be cornered, decimated, eliminated, etc. "within a matter of days." Since then and the Dos Palmas in Palawan however, the humiliation of our police and Armed Forces together with the whole nation, goes on day after day.

It is not just our utter incompetence in catching the Abu Sayyaf that has magnified our military and police forces' abject state for all the world to hear about and see. There is the unresolved and allegedly Sen. Panfilo Lacson-related Bubby Dacer and Kuratong Baleleng murder cases; the humiliation of Navy FOIC Admiral Guillermo Wong not so long ago; the ludicrous escape from his jail guards by the suspected mastermind of the murder of the late Judge Marciano Bacalla's son Mark; the Reserve Officers Training Corps corruption cum murder scandal that has spawned nationwide near-mutiny of our student ROTC cadets; and incredibly simultaneous with TV wit Mark Logan's acidic limericks about the sputtering "Jeep ni Gloria" incident during the Air Force anniversary celebration, when we also heard the PAF commanding general's laments about the near-total cannibalization of our Air Force's equipment. We read about Malou Mangahas' well-researched multibillion-peso C-130 and other Air Force purchasing scandals involving the highest echelons in the Air Force command, and the Office of the AFP Chief of Staff! And now the latest accusations of heinous criminality hurled by former Presidential Anti-Organized Crime Task Force asset "Ador" against newly elected Senator Lacson (again!), and his former PAOCTF cohorts.

Wow! Will such utterly demoralizing revelations and wonders never cease? Thus even our own immigrant relatives and friends in the United States look down with pity on us, and even patronizingly suggest that we join their migratory escape abroad.

Amid all the deepening public anger against these military and police aggravations and oppressive poverty all aver the land, fueled all the more by rising oil prices and a continuously sinking peso, at least we are comforted that our government-controlled corporations' officers have decided to eat crow and obey President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's angry orders for them to take a cut on their princely salaries and perquisites.

But it doesn't help at all that an ex-military top brass and now Sen. Rodolfo Biazon, has allowed his proposed Divorce Bill to roll up even more, the contentious tempers of our people at this worst of times. Nor for Sandiganbayan Judge Anacleto Badoy to be publicly unfazed by death threats, but become hesitant at the thought of live media coverage of his court's trial of deposed President Joseph Estrada's plunder case.

Poor President Macapagal! For at the end of the day, she alone will have to decide as to who among her many official or whispering advisers, she will believe or reject. But for heaven's sake, please, let's have much less of their obvious and blatant PR gimmickry and ingratiating, flip-flopping deviltry.

In the meantime, all of us Christians and Muslims who take our faith seriously enough, should perhaps go down more often on our knees and pray for God's help and his boundless mercy.—**EDUARDO B. OLAGUER, Aurora Milestone Bldg., 1045 Aurora Boulevard, Quezon City**

A chance to cut nuclear risk

FEATURE

Sanjeev Miglani

NEW DELHI—When former US President Bill Clinton declared that South Asia was perhaps one of "the most dangerous places in the world today," few begged to disagree.

Experts say that India and Pakistan, bristling with crude nuclear weapons, have been living on the edge for far too long and must address themselves to the nuclear risk above everything else in next week's summit.

Since they carried out tit-for-tat nuclear tests and declared themselves nuclear powers three years ago, the perennially hostile neighbors have been groping in the dark. Neither side knows the other's nuclear capabilities, whether its secrecy-shrouded weapons are on hair-trigger alert or even who controls them.

"It is all very, very dangerous. There is a basic risk involved when there is a complete absence of dialogue between two nuclear states," said P.R. Chari, director of the New Delhi-based Institute for Peace and Conflict Studies.

New Delhi has spelled out a nuclear doctrine that envisages weapons deployed on aircraft, missiles and at sea, but it has not announced a command-and-control system for such a force. Pakistan has identified a national command system, but has not laid out a nuclear doctrine that tells the world—and India in particular—what to expect in a nuclear conflict. Worse, there is no safety regime to check against misperceptions by either side or even a nuclear accident on a subcontinent riven by decades of distrust and misunderstandings.

Indian Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee and Pakistan President Pervez Musharraf are not expected to make dramatic progress on issues that have defied solution for five decades. But experts say they must try to push the nuclear clock back from the midnight hour.

Until Vajpayee's surprise offer to Musharraf for a meeting, the two sides were not even on talking terms.

"There has to be mutual dialogue on nuclear risk reduction," agreed Shireen Mazari, director general of The Institute of Strategic Studies, a think-tank associated with the Pakistan's foreign ministry. "You must have dialogue and resolve your political conflicts because where political conflicts exist there is always some level of nuclear risk."

A year after they conducted underground nuclear explosions, India and Pakistan teetered on the brink of a third full-scale conflict over the bitterly disputed region of Kashmir. It would have been the world's first war between two nuclear states.

Since then there have been countless warnings from the international community, and paperback writers are now churning out chilling fictional accounts of a conventional war over Kashmir escalating into a nuclear exchange.

But the politicians and people of the two countries, many of whom rejoiced over the 1998 tests, rarely speak of the dangers of hostile neighbors living on the nuclear edge.

Vajpayee and then Pakistan Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif agreed to implement a set of measures designed to reduce nuclear risks during a summit in Lahore in 1999, but the undeclared war in northern Kashmir three months later pushed everything into cold storage.

"There is a touching faith here in the wisdom of our leaders that somehow we will not go over the edge," said retired Indian Navy Adm. Raja Menon.

But military experts believe a simple error of judgment by either side could be catastrophic. One army brigadier, painting a hypothetical scenario, said unusual activity at a nuclear site of one country could trigger a rapid and dangerous chain of events on the other side. "Suppose there is some movement at Kahuta (Pakistan's nuclear site) and we conclude, right or wrong, that they are preparing for an offensive strike. We have to react, or else it will be too late."

Since they decided to arm themselves with nuclear weapons, both nations have frantically pursued missile development programs aimed at delivering these crude weapons. India's short-range Prithvi missile and Pakistan's Hatf missile are extremely destabilizing because they allow very little reaction time, said Gurmeet Kanwal, an expert at the Indian government-funded Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses. He said both sides could enter into an agreement on the non-use of such short-range missile for nuclear deterrence.

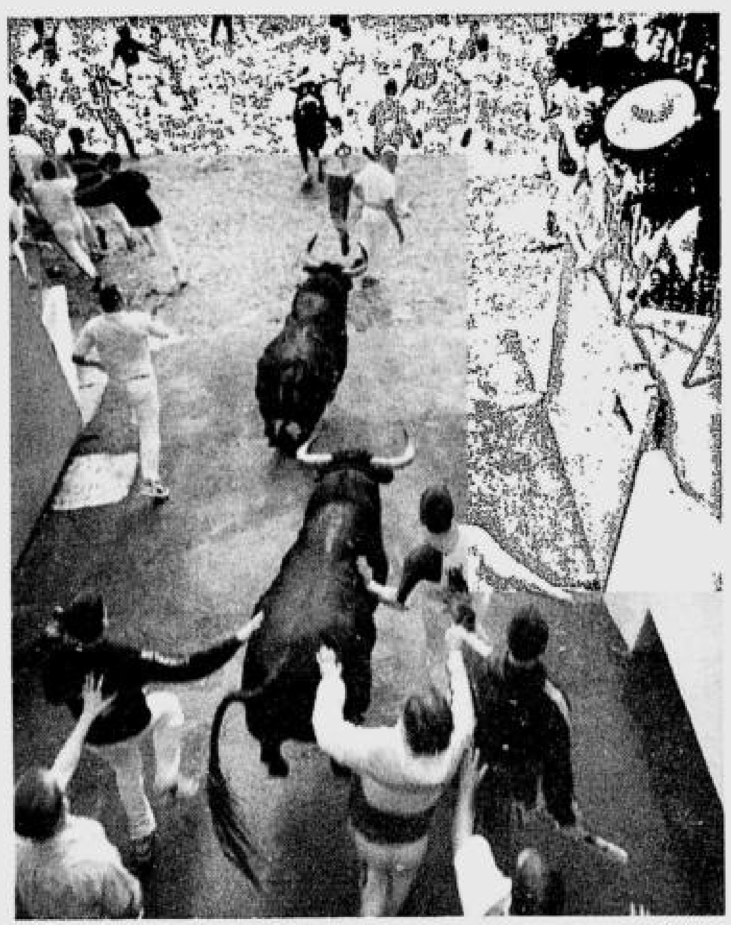
Among the other steps that India and Pakistan agreed to during the Lahore summit were to consult each other on nuclear doctrines, give advance notification of ballistic missile tests and set up communication mechanisms to prevent misunderstandings.

"Both leaders have no higher responsibility than to reduce nuclear dangers on the subcontinent," wrote Michael Krepon, president emeritus of the Washington-based Henry L. Stimson Center, in an article in the Indian newsmagazine Outlook. "There's a great deal of work to do to increase nuclear safety; much time has already been lost."

Reuters

The WORLD

Luverne B. Gueco, Editor



PAMPLONA'S 'ENCIERRO' REUTERS

Fighting bulls surrounded by runners enter the bullring in the final moments of the *encierro*, or running of the bulls, in the famed Fiesta de San Fermin in Pamplona, Spain, July 7. In the first run, several people were badly hurt by the bulls during the dash through the old city streets that lures thousands of thrill seekers each morning during the weeklong fiesta.

OKINAWA RAPE FALLOUT

Japan PM to consider revising US forces pact

TOKYO—Japanese Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi said Sunday he would consider revising a pact that governs the presence of American forces in Japan after a US airman was accused of raping an Okinawa woman.

"Recognizing the fact that the US military presence is necessary, I do not deny discussing and considering (a revision of the agreement) could be a future topic," Koizumi said in a television interview.

But the premier said that "for the time being," he would stick to the current Status of Forces Agreement in which US commanders do not have to hand over servicemen suspected of crimes until they are indicted by Japanese prosecutors.

Calls are growing for a revision of the policy after Washington failed to hand over Air Force Staff Sergeant Timothy Woodland on June 29 after he was accused of raping a 20-year-old woman in Okinawa, despite repeated requests by Japan.

After the 1995 rape of a 12-year-old Okinawan girl by three US servicemen, Washington agreed to give "sympathetic consideration" to any request by Tokyo for an immediate handover of military personnel suspected of serious crimes such as rape or murder.

Okinawa police obtained an arrest warrant for Woodland on Monday, July 2, but it was not until July 6, after days of intense lobbying by Tokyo, that the US agreed to the transfer.

Woodland has been detained at Okinawa Police Department since Friday for further interrogation.

"We cannot tell if inquiries continued today, but he has been detained here for more questioning," a police spokesman said Sunday.

On Saturday, the Okinawa District Court issued a court order to allow prosecutors to detain the US airman at Okinawa police station for 10 days during the investigation into the rape.

Woodland denies he raped the woman, but has maintained he had consensual sex with her.

After the 10 days is up, police can seek an extension of the detention order for another 10 days and then a supplementary five day period.

Japanese Foreign Minister Makiko Tanaka is likely to raise the rape case and a possible revision of the US forces pact when US Secretary of State Colin Powell visits Japan on July 23, the Yomiuri Shimbun said.

Tanaka said Friday Tokyo may seek a pact revision, saying: "To prevent such a crime from happening again, we must consider various options including revising the agreement."

Powell will visit several Asian countries before attending meetings at the Association of Southeast Asian Nations regional forum in Hanoi between July 24 and 26. *AFP*

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'Utor' misses HK, but causes $1.3-B loss

HONG KONG—As typhoon Utor's ("Feria" in the Philippines) fearsome reputation preceded it, Hong Kong prepared for the worst: businesses downed shutters and public transport ground to a halt—all for the sake of a tropical storm.

Having lashed the region with torrential rain and ferocious winds that have left more than 100 dead, the fear and trepidation that gripped the territory as Utor swept menacingly toward China's southern coast was perhaps understandable.

Packing gusts of 170 km per hour, the typhoon was so large that its effects were felt simultaneously in the Philippines, Taiwan and southern China.

It had already claimed the lives of 44 people before nearing Hong Kong and being declared one of the region's worst storms in 20 years early Friday.

However, fears of a direct hit proved unfounded, although the territory was still lashed by torrential rain and high winds, a common occurrence during Hong Kong's summer season.

Hong Kong authorities who had warned residents to batten down their hatches were left looking rather silly as the typhoon was downgraded to a severe tropical storm after it made landfall near Shanwei, about 110 km northeast of Hong Kong.

However, schools and offices stayed shut and trading on the stock exchange was canceled.

Associate director at Tung Tai Securities Kenny Tang estimated "the storm probably caused lost turnover on the stock market of around $1.28 billion."

Tang also estimated that around $40 million in commission had been lost by the territory's estimated 500 stocktrading firms.

The Hong Kong observatory was also left with egg on its face after it had seemingly prematurely hoisted the typhoon number eight signal at 7:30 p.m. on Thursday. *AFP*

MESSAGES

DEAR Fellow Rotarians:

I welcome this opportunity to congratulate and extend my best wishes to all the officers of your club elected to serve in 2000-2001. Your fellow Rotarians have shown their confidence in choosing you to lead the club during this coming year. During 2001-2002, I am asking all Rotarians to conduct the business of Rotary by working to meet the ever-growing needs for Rotary service in our communities and our world. To accomplish this goal, it is essential that we continue to bring in new members, especially those individuals who are seeking a way to use their talents and experience to help others.

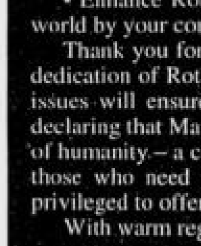
This year, I would like to help your club focus on the following issues:

- Increasing Rotary's membership by bringing in members and sponsoring new clubs;
- Undertaking new community service projects;
- Undertaking new international service projects; and
- Enhance Rotary's public image in the community and throughout the world by your commitment to the business of Rotary.

Thank you for your commitment to your own Rotary International. The dedication of Rotary clubs and individual Rotarians in support of these key issues will ensure a future for Rotary that is bright with possibilities. In declaring that Mankind Is Our Business, we are making a commitment to all of humanity – a commitment that will ultimately transform the lives of both those who need Rotary's humanitarian service and those of us who are privileged to offer it.

With warm regard.

RICK D. KING
RI president, 2001-2002



MY ANN Chichi joins me in extending my warmest greetings to the Rotary Club of Makati Dasmarinas on the occasion of its RY 2001-2002 Handover and Induction Ceremonies.

I congratulate President Emmanuel Luis "Louie" Panganiban and his fellow incoming officers and directors for being the self-less and dedicated Rotary Club leaders who will lead their club in upholding a fine tradition of Rotary service for RY 2001-2001.

Over the years, Rotary District 3830 has evolved into one of the strongest districts in the Philippines, mainly because of the dedication and commitment displayed by our outstanding leaders and members in the club level.

As we begin a fresh year of Rotary service together, the times that we will face would be far more different. It will be a period where the challenges of the times will be more difficult, demanding, tough. It may be daunting, but achieving the shared goal of world understanding and peace is attainable and reachable.

Friendship is the key by which Rotary service survives. Friendship is the spirit and essence of Rotary. Let us, therefore, aim to strengthen our existing friendships with our fellow Rotarians and the community; and further create opportunities to establish new ones. As a Rotary club belonging to the premier district in the country, let us be one in perpetuating Rotary service in District 3830 by acts of kindness, selflessness, humility, magnanimity and goodwill. Let us bear in mind that Rotary friendship, as in the commitment to serve, has no borders, surpasses personal beliefs and principles, and overcomes the boundaries of race, color or creed.

That we have given ourselves for the interest of Rotary service is its own reward. By being instruments of peace and understanding, we help improve the lives of others, and ours even more.

Rotary Year 2000-2001 created awareness in us and guided us all to take action. This year, because Mankind Is Our Business, let us make Rotary service enjoyable for all by further strengthening the bridges of lifelong friendships that we all built together.

The late Charles "Buzz" G. Tennent, Rotary International president in 1957, aptly said it: "The success of the Rotary movement hinges not upon our impressive numbers – but upon you and me as individuals, and the way we translate the Ideals of Service into our day-to-day living – into our thinking – and into our attitudes toward our fellowman."

Yours in the Spirit of Rotary Service,

Ernesto L. Salas
ERNESTO "ERNIE" SALAS
Governor, RY 2001-2002

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RCMD means Rotarian Camaraderie is Marvelous Diversity. Chartered Dec. 14, 1994 under the auspices of the Rotary Club of Makati-West, it has become among the big-league clubs of Rotary International District 3830 with its 62 members, half of them women, with an average age of 35. Incredible business network more than net worth. Incorrigible daily texters on inspiring activities of Rotarians. Weekly club meetings spiced up with most exciting speakers from the world over. Golf and bowling clinics. Dance fellowships. Health updates. Investment tips. Monthly birthday fellowships.

RCMD means Rotarians Care for the Marginalized and Disabled. Monthly medical-dental missions coupled with health education and bingo *para kay lola at lolo*. Leader of the annual medical mission to the Aetas of Botolan. Pioneer of the Anti-Dengue Campaign. Community-builder from ravages of fire; trauma of abuse; despair of displacement. Pioneer of the Haven to Heaven self-esteem program for battered women. Initiator of cancer-buster program for poor women. Disaster, Emergency and Accident Responder and trainer in Barangay Handuman, Bacolod City; Barangay Valenzuela, Makati and the Payatas trashslide in Quezon City. Disaster training program now adopted by Assumption-San Lorenzo and La Salle-Bacolod. Livelihood training center in Moonwalk Paranaque for single parents of marginalized families. Independent living centers for persons with disabilities in Quezon City and Makati one-stop skills training, job matching, subcontracting for school chairs, bag-making and computer software training. Mainstreaming of physically impaired children through play therapy in Learn To Listen center in San Juan, Stepping Stone with other Makati clubs; painting and dancing competitions for deaf and mute children, and the annual Pedyalympics.

RCMD means Rotarians Committed to Meaningful Development. Bridge between skilled and unskilled; young and old; the cosmopolitan and the indigenous. Builder of the Hanging Bridge in Malikongkong, Davao linking indigenous tribes to town, cutting travel time from eight hours to four. Builder of artificial corals with Lobo, Batangas fisherfolk doubling their daily income. Integrator of values education in film-making and theater arts through Drama Hindi Droga program for the youth. Quick response for fire-stricken *gilidgers* of Barangay La Paz, Makati, rehabilitating their daycare center coupled with civic education on self-reliance. Trailblazer in recognizing outstanding high school teachers in Makati and training outstanding high school principals nationwide with the Asian Institute of Management.

RCMD means Rotarians Crossing Miles and Distances Infomercials on Kids for Peace and Polio Plus shown in Channel 58 USA. Global Youth Outcry for Peace and Integrity that brought together a total of 50,000 youth singing and praying for world peace in five continents put on live satellite audio link and webcast with delayed telecast by CBN-Asia: Philippines for Asia, Texas for North America, Bolivia for Latin America, England for Europe, Burundi for Africa. Developer of AIDS information materials for the youth in Hanoi, Vietnam. Contributor to eye camps in India.

RCMD means Rotary Can Make the Difference in YOUR life. Soar above yourself. Join us. Touch another soul!

President Louie and RCMD members have fun with the kids at the 'pedyalimpic' games. RCMD was awarded most outstanding in youth service in District 3830.

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PROGRAM

- **CALL TO ORDER** – Pres. Patt Lontoc
- **INVOCATION** – CP Becky Singson and Ms. Gaby Iglesias
- **NATIONAL ANTHEM**
- **INTRODUCTION OF DIGNITARIES AND GUESTS** – PP Rhoda Salas
- **VALEDICTORY ADDRESS** – Pres. Patt Lontoc
- **ENTERTAINMENT NUMBER** – Rotaract Club of PCU
- **INTRODUCTION OF NEW MEMBERS** – Dir. Juor Buted and Dir. Me-ann Palanca
- **CHARGING OF NEW MEMBERS** – PP Ding Dizon
- **INDUCTION OF NEW MEMBERS** – PP Perry Noble
- **INTRODUCTION OF PRESIDENT LOUIE PANGANIBAN**
- **INDUCTION OF PRES. LOUIE** – Gov. Ernie Salas
- **INAUGURAL ADDRESS** – Pres. Louie Panganiban
- **CHARGING OF INCOMING DIRECTORS AND OFFICERS** – PP Patt Lontoc
- **INDUCTION OF INCOMING DIRECTORS AND OFFICERS** – Pres. Louie Panganiban
- **ENTERTAINMENT NUMBER** – RCMD members
- **INTRODUCTION OF THE GOVERNOR** – PP Melitte Palma
- **MESSAGE OF THE GOVERNOR** – Gov. Ernie Salas
- **PAUL HARRIS FELLOW RECOGNITION**
- **CLUB SONG** – RCMD members
- **ADJOURNMENT** – Pres. Louie Panganiban

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SPECIAL THANKS TO THE FOLLOWING:

- **Juor Buted**
- **Dr. Rebecca Singson**
- **Dr. Perry Noble**
- **Rhoda Salas**
- **Teta Sugay**
- Mark Joseph
- Laarni Endrinal
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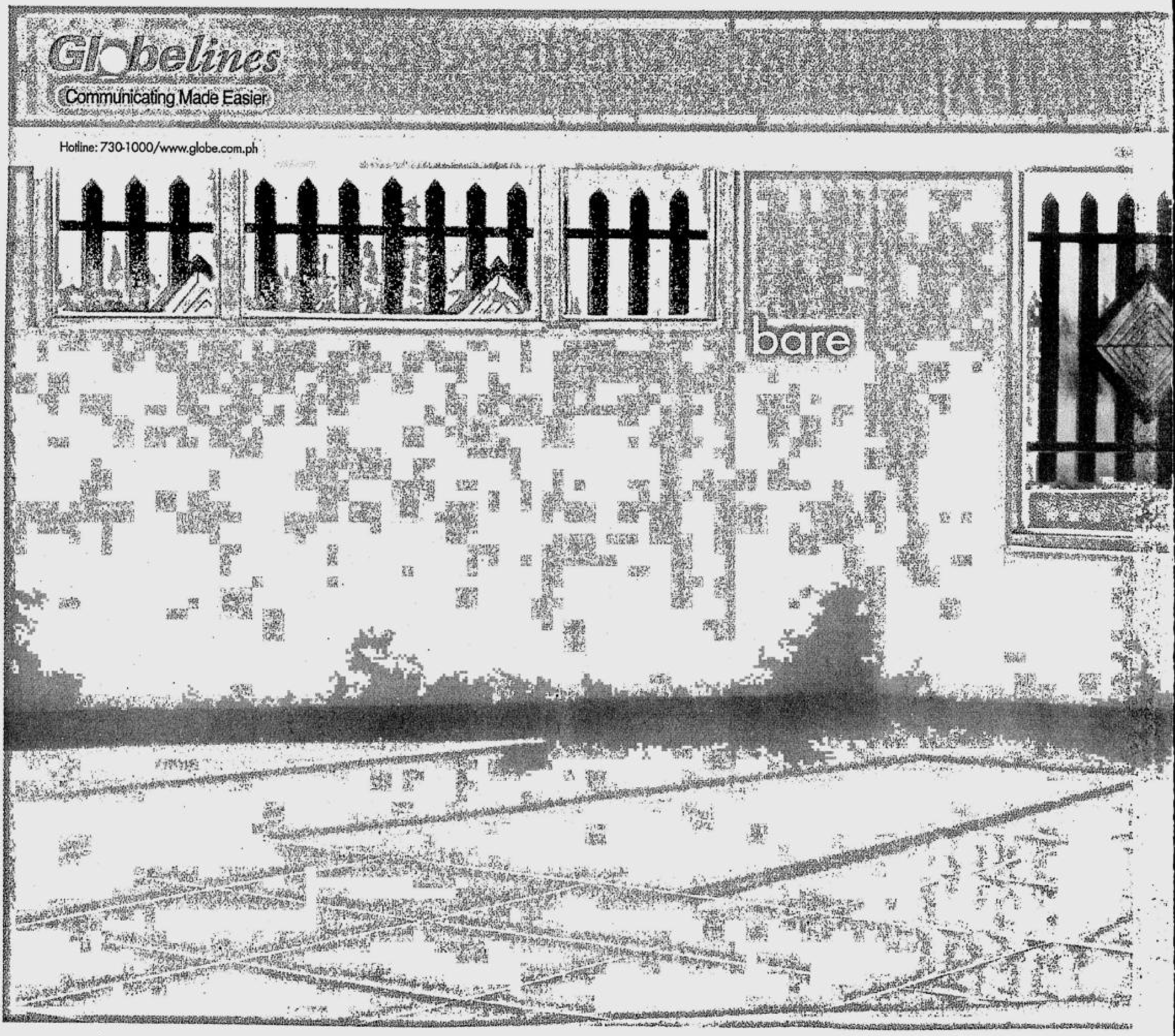


Another race riot erupts in Britain

POLICE face rioters during violence in Bradford, 320 km north of London, July 7. About 200 policemen faced thousands of Asian youths who threw Molotov cocktails, bricks and bottles in clashes triggered by the white supremacist National Front's plan to hold a rally in the town.. REUTERS

BRADFORD, England—Asian and white youths armed with petrol bombs and baseball bats clashed with police in the industrial city of Bradford on Sunday as northern England suffered a renewed outbreak of race rioting.

In some of the worst street violence in Britain for years, police said at least two men were stabbed, 80 police officers were injured and 28 people were arrested during street battles blamed on outsiders by local community leaders.

Hundreds of officers battled around 1,000 youths of Bangladeshi and Pakistani origin who threw bricks and stabbed a police horse during the violence that began on Saturday.

As dawn broke on Sunday, police said they were restoring order to the streets of Bradford, but officers said they had come close to being overwhelmed by the violence at one point.

Bradford is the fourth northern city in recent weeks to be hit by race riots after Oldham, Leeds and Burnley.

Joyriders drove stolen cars into police lines, some rioters pushed burning cars and shopping trolleys towards the police as firecrackers and other missiles bounced off their riot shields.

The Bradford clashes came after the white supremacist National Front planned to hold a rally in the town 320 km north of London. The government had banned political marches in Bradford this week, hoping to prevent race riots.

The troubles in the northern cities follow relatively strong June national election performances by candidates belonging to another far-right group, the British National Party, which calls for repatriation of non-white ethnic minorities.

Around five percent of Britain's 57 million population are from ethnic minorities. Some 15 percent of Bradford's 482,000 residents are of Bangladeshi or Pakistani origin. Many of them are the sons and daughters of immigrants who came to work in textile mills that have long since closed.

Barry Malik, a Bradford Asian community leader, urged youths to go home and let police sort out Asian and white "troublemakers" from out of town.

"We should ask Asian youths not to take this into their own hands," he said. "If they burn the cars, smash the windows and attack the police that will just damage this city." *Reuters*

Croatia agrees to hand over war crimes suspects

ZAGREB—The Croatian government has agreed to hand over war crimes suspects indicted by the UN tribunal in The Hague, following Serbia's example but sparking off its own political crisis.

After a stormy eight-hour cabinet meeting interspersed with breaks for consultations with top political leaders from the majority and opposition, Prime Minister Ivica Racan said late Saturday he had decided to hand over to the justice ministry requests for the arrest and transfer to The Hague of war crimes suspects.

The requests came from Carla Del Ponte, prosecutor at the International Criminal Tribunal for ex-Yugoslavia (ICTY) at The Hague.

Four ministers—Deputy Prime Minister Goran Granic, Defense Minister Jozo Rados, Economy Minister Goranko Fizulic and Science and Technology Minister Hrvoje Kraljevic—resigned following the meeting.

Racan did not name those incriminated by the ICTY, but the Croatian press has said they were two generals accused of atrocities against Serbs during the 1991-95 conflict.

Croatian newspapers have named the two men as General Rahim Ademi and retired general Ante Gotovina, who commanded Croatian forces during the conflict with Serbia. They are suspected of massacring hundreds of Serb civilians and destroying a dozen villages.

Racan said the government had "preferred to choose the way of cooperation to that of confrontation" with Europe, to preserve its hopes of being accepted into the European Union. Croatia did not want to be isolated as it was under former president Franjo Tudjman.

"To turn down the request from The Hague would be to plunge Croatia into the abysses of the Balkans conflict," Racan told a news conference.

The prime minister, who had long talks with Del Ponte on Friday in Zagreb, recalled that he had presented written objections to the ICTY's requests and that these had been turned down by the prosecutor.

Del Ponte declared that the court did not mean to "criminalize" the "patriotic war" carried out by Croatia but only to punish criminal acts of war committed by particular individuals.

After the four ministers, all of the Social Liberal Party (HSLS), walked out of the cabinet, Racan said 19 out of the 22 government members had backed the arrests of the suspects, two abstained and one voted against.

Racan said the Social Liberals resigned due to a "moral conflict" between the government's decision and their party's position.

Racan told the press conference he would request a vote of confidence from parliament "very quickly" and the government would be dissolved if he did not obtain MPs' backing. *AFP*

Conductor dares play Wagner in Jerusalem

JERUSALEM—Conductor Daniel Barenboim has shattered one of Israel's greatest cultural taboos with a surprise performance of the music of Richard Wagner, the favorite composer of Hitler and the Nazi regime.

Barenboim got approval from most of the audience Saturday evening when he asked their permission to lead the Berlin Statskapelle in a performance of part of Wagner's opera "Tristan und Isolde" at the close of his program.

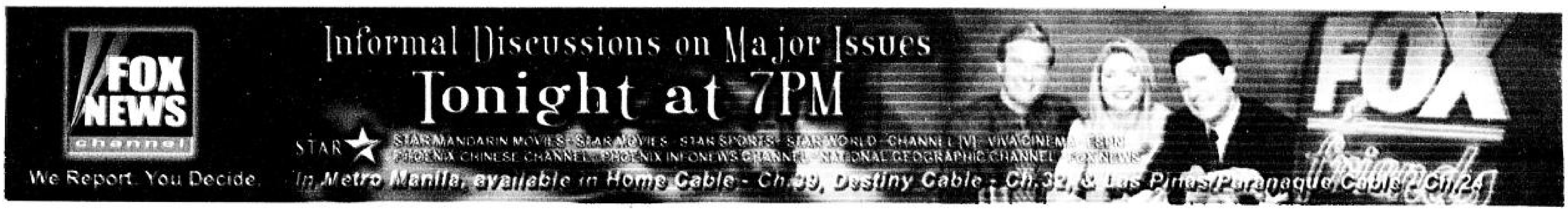
The Argentinian-born Barenboim, who grew up in Israel, had wanted to play Wagner but changed his program at the request of the Israel Festival, which had been besieged by protests from politicians and Holocaust survivors.

In a shock to festival management and concert-goers alike, however, Barenboim asked the audience at the end of the concert if he could perform some music by Wagner, one of the great Romantic composers.

Some angry spectators shouted "Remember your people" and "Juden Raus!"—"Jews Out!" in German, a common expression during Hitler's Third Reich—but most stayed to hear the performance.

He told protesters the decision to play the piece was his alone and asked that their anger be directed at him and not the orchestra or managers of the festival, who later called the performance an "extra-curricular event."

Several people stormed out, slamming doors of the concert hall as the orchestra began, but most stayed and gave a standing ovation to Barenboim, who left the stage in tears. *AFP*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US solon admits to sexual ties with Levy

WASHINGTON—US congressman Gary Condit has admitted to having a sexual relationship with Chandra Levy, a 24-year-old government intern whose disappearance more than two months ago has sparked strong interest in the United States, US media reported late Saturday.

Condit, a California Democrat, acknowledged the relationship with Levy in his third interview with police detectives late Friday, saying it was still ongoing at the time of her disappearance on April 30, according to the reports.

The 53-year-old congressman had maintained previously that Levy was just a "good friend."

He denied knowledge of any major event in Levy's life that might have caused her to disappear and said that, to the best of his knowledge, Levy was not pregnant, Newsweek magazine reported, citing sources in the police department.

Police officials, however, refused to confirm or deny the reports.

"I can say with some certainty he is not a suspect," Executive Assistant Police Chief Terrance Gainer told reporters here on Saturday.

But he refused to disclose any specifics of Friday's interview.

"It was, from the detectives' point of view, a very productive, helpful... interview," Gainer said.

Calls to attorney Abbe Lowell's office went unanswered.

Levy, who graduated from California State University in 1998 with a bachelor's degree in journalism and who was due to graduate with a master's degree from the University of Southern California in May, came to Washington last year to serve as an intern with the Federal Bureau of Prisons.

She was last seen at her health club, and a search of her apartment turned up her packed luggage, jewelry, credit cards and $30 in cash. Only her keys were missing.

According to statements by her aunt, Linda Zamsky, Levy had had a romantic relationship with the married congressman, which he insisted on keeping secret. *AFP*

CHANDRA Ann Levy, a 24-year-old graduate student from the University of Southern California, seen in this undated photo released by the family, has been missing since April 30, 2001 after completing a federal internship. AP

Megawati's party snubs Wahid call for meeting

JAKARTA—Indonesia's largest party is likely to ignore an invitation to a meeting of party leaders from President Abdurrahman Wahid as he seeks to stave off impeachment, a senior member said Sunday.

"So far the party has not received any official invitation to the talks, except if it was directly given to the party chairperson," said Sucipto, the deputy speaker of the national assembly from the Indonesian Democratic Party of Struggle of Vice President Megawati Sukarnoputri.

Sucipto said he doubted that Megawati would attend the meeting, slated to be held on Monday at the summer presidential palace in Bogor some 60 km south of here.

"I doubt that Mrs. Mega will attend the meeting unless there is a clear agenda provided," he said.

Wahid has called for the meeting in a move to help break the political deadlock as lawmakers step up pressure to oust him through a special session of the national assembly due to start on Aug. 1.

Wahid has already postponed the talks from Saturday because Megawati was in Singapore for a routine medical checkup.

Wahid's spokesperson Wimar Witoelar said that the meeting is scheduled to start for Monday noon.

Speaking after attending a traditional lifecycle rite for Wahid's first grandchild at the Palace, Witoelar said that the meeting was only to "exchange views and opinions" between the leaders of the parties.

But he did not say which party leaders had already formally confirmed their attendance for Monday.

Megawati's official agenda for Monday shows that the vice president is due to chair a cabinet meeting on the economy at the Vice President's Palace at 11 a.m. and meet acting Attorney General Suparman at 2 p.m.

The planned meeting is being seen by observers as another attempt by Wahid to reach a last-ditch compromise with his political foes before he is impeached.

"If the meeting is to smooth the path to the special session and brush aside the possibility of the use of force, then it will be useful," Sucipto commented.

"But if it is to reach a compromise that would affect the special session, then there is no point in taking part in it."

Speaker Akbar Tanjung, the chair of the second largest party Golkar, has already said that he will attend the meeting but only if it has a clear agenda.

On Friday, Wahid again threatened to declare a state of emergency if the hostile parliament tried to impeach him.

But speaking after Friday prayers here, the president said he was prepared to compromise if the national assembly, or People's Consultative Assembly, backed off at the special session from calling him to account for his 20 months in office. *AFP*

Millions face starvation as record droughts hit Asia

By Martin Fackler

DALANYINGZI, China—The wheat should be waist-high by now, but Yu Zhijun must bend down below his knees to grab the brittle yellow stalks.

His crop withered when spring rains failed to come to Dalanyingzi, a village surrounded by wheat and corn fields in China's northeastern province of Liaoning. With his large thumb, Yu exposed a shriveled kernel the size of tear drop.

"It's useless for market. You can't sell something that looks like this," Yu said.

From the Korean peninsula through northern China and on to Afghanistan, record droughts have destroyed crops and plunged tens of millions of people deeper into poverty.

The United Nations says 5 million people face starvation in Afghanistan and neighboring Tajikistan alone. China's lack of rainfall has dried out farmland the size of Italy and fed massive dust storms. Bad harvests in North Korea have forced the closed communist country to warm up to the West in exchange for food aid.

The droughts have struck a continent that already was seeing fierce competition for water to supply expanding populations and rapid economic growth as supplies from polluted rivers and wells dwindled.

Scientists say Asia's droughts are linked as warmer global temperatures push weather patterns northward, driving rain clouds away from an already arid stretch of the continent.

"Northern China sits on a fragile climate belt that also includes central and western Asia," said Ding Yihui, a researcher at China's national weather institute. "The higher temperatures are further worsening the situation."

In India, water is so scarce in the northwestern state of Rajasthan that farmers are trading away precious livestock just to stay alive. One goat buys four earthen pots of water, each the size of a small trash can.

In the village of Sam, women wait for a relief truck that brings water once every three days. Others walk 20 km to fill saddlebags from wells that are almost dry.

"What should we do?" asked Murad Khan, 69, of Danana village.

"Our animals are dying daily. If water is not there, there is no life."

Afghanistan is suffering its worst drought on record. Desperate residents in the capital, Kabul, dug more than 166 new wells last year. Each must be deeper than the last as the water table drops at a rate of five meters a year.

In the village of Shah Kabul, 55 km to the west of the capital, apple orchards are barren and potato fields cracked and dry.

The bellies of many village children are bloated from lack of food. Half of the 250 homes have been abandoned by villagers joining an exodus of refugees from drought and civil war into neighboring Iran or Pakistan.

"Many people have left and more are leaving. This winter is our last hope for rain and snow," said Salim Shah, a villager who said he was struggling to provide for a family of 10. "If we don't get water, then we will all have to leave."

Many end up in camps like the six run by the United Nations in Herat, near Afghanistan's border with Iran. The largest, Maslakh, has run out of tents. The 2,000 people who straggle in each day after walking as long as two weeks must sleep in the open with no water and little food.

The United Nations says a half-million people live in such camps, and warns that 4 million Afghans face starvation.

A million more people could starve in Tajikistan, where drought has destroyed half the wheat harvest, the United Nations says. The country's president has appealed to the world for emergency supplies like grain, cooking oil and meat.

In Mongolia, 5 million cattle, sheep and horses have died from two straight years of summer drought and harsh winters. Their herds wiped out, nomadic families are migrating to cities where tent slums have sprung up.

The dry spell threatens North Korea with its sixth straight year of famine. State media report that rainfall just a tenth of normal has left hundreds of thousands of acres shriveled. Bad weather and mismanagement killed as many as 2 million north Koreans in the worst famines of 1995-1998.

In China, the government says 23 million people don't have enough drinking water.

Rains in late June came in time to save the corn crop in Dalanyingzi village, though the stunted plants will produce only half their normal yield.

Yu Zhijun said drought damage will cost him almost two-thirds of his annual income of about 3,000 yuan, or $350.

That means he won't be able to afford rice for his family. They will have to make do with crude noodles made themselves after picking out edible grains from the ruined wheat crop. *AP*

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JULY 16-18	9-5:30	CURTAINS AND CUSHIONS (ON SITE) Bring sewing kit and calculator.	1,694.00
JULY 17-20	9-5:30	FIBERGLASS PRODUCTS MANUFACTURING	2,310.00
JULY 17-20	9-5:30	STARTING A RESTAURANT BUSINESS (with field trip)	2,310.00
JULY 18	9-5:30	SETTING UP A TRAVEL AGENCY	770.00
JULY 19-20	9-5:30	ACUPRESSURE THERAPY (SCIENTIFIC BODY MASSAGE)	1,540.00
JULY 21-22	9-5:30	DOLLAR TRADING/FOREIGN CURRENCY EXCHANGE	1,155.00
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JULY 23-24	9-5:30	CORSAGE AND BOUQUET MAKING	1,540.00
JULY 23-24	9-5:30	BASIC RESERVATION AND TICKETING FOR TRAVEL AGENCIES (with field trip)	1,386.00
JULY 23 & 25-27	9-5:30	SILKSCREEN PRINTING	2,310.00
JULY 24-25	9-5:30	SETTING UP A HARDWARE AND CONSTRUCTION SUPPLY STORE	1,155.00
JULY 24-27	9-4:00	OPERATING A RETAIL STORE BUSINESS (with field trip)	2,310.00
JULY 26	9-5:30	SETTING UP A TRAVEL AGENCY	770.00
JULY26-27	9-5:30	ADVANCED AND LATEST TRENDS IN FLORAL DESIGN (FLOWER ARRANGEMENT) (Pre-requisite: basic knowledge of flower arrangement)	1,925.00
JULY 26-27	9-5:30	AROMATHERAPY	1,540.00
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JULY 26-30		OPERATING A LAUNDRY SHOP BUSINESS	1,732.50
28-29	9-5:30	(SMALL-SCALE) (with field trip)	
30	9-12:00		

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JULY 20-21	9-5:30	GOAT AND SHEEP RAISING (with field trip)	1,386.00
JULY 21-23		TILAPIA PRODUCTION (with field trip)	1,732.50
21	9-5:30		
22	1-5:30		
23	9-2:00		
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26	9-2.00	(with field trip)	
JULY 23-27	9-4:00	SWINE PRODUCTION (with field trip)	2,079.00

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JULY 16-17	9-5:30	BASIC MEAT PROCESSING	1,540.00
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JULY 19-20	9-5:30	BASIC CAKE DECORATING	1,540.00
JULY 21-23		HOW TO BE A CANTEEN CONCESSIONAIRE	1,771.00
21-22	9-5:30	(with field trip)	
23	9-12:00		
JULY 21-24	9-5:30	COMMERCIAL BREADMAKING AND BAKERY MANAGEMENT	2,079.00
JULY 25	9-5:30	FLAVORED AND FORTIFIED JUICE	770.00
JULY 26-27	9-5.30	INTERNATIONAL CUISINE (Asian and European)	2,310.00
JULY 28-29	9-5:30	BASIC MEAT PROCESSING	1,540.00
JULY 28-31	9-5:30	COMMERCIAL BREADMAKING AND BAKERY MANAGEMENT	2,079.00

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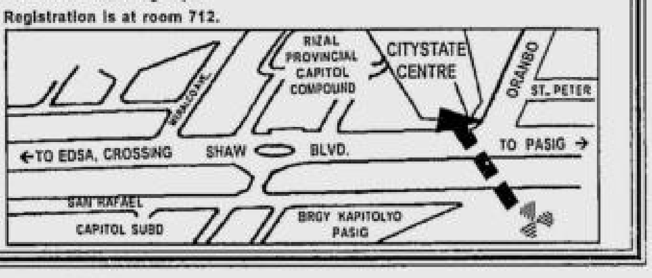

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Across the NATION

TONY BERGONIA, Assistant Editor

PNP to test DNA gadget on seaman

BY M. GASCON
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

BAYOMBONG, Nueva Vizcaya—Danilo Afalla, the Filipino seaman who was charged with parricide for the murder of his wife and three children here, will be the first suspect whose DNA strands will undergo the new DNA-testing machine acquired by the Philippine National Police.

Chief Supt. Thompson Lantion, director of the PNP's directorate for police community relations, said the pieces of evidence submitted by police investigators in Afalla's case would be examined as soon as PNP technicians undergoing DNA analysis training in the United States arrive in the country.

"The moment they arrive from training at the Federal Bureau of Investigation Institute in Washington, their expertise will be used in the evaluation of the pieces of evidence that will help solve criminal cases," Lantion, in a visit here Saturday, told reporters.

DNA (deoxyribonucleic acid) is the nucleic acid found in all nuclei of cells and considered as a gene. The sequence of bases in a gene constitutes a code that determines the nature of the quality conferred on the organism inheriting that gene.

Among those subjected to DNA tests and DNA matching are hair strands, blood and semen samples, peeled skin, fingernails and toenails, tissue samples and saliva left in the crime scene to determine if these match a suspect's DNA strands.

The introduction of the new equipment, Lantion said, is part of the modernization program of the PNP aimed at supporting improved investigative methods used by the police in solving crimes.

Afalla, 41, is facing parricide charges for the brutal slaying of his wife Aperacion, 38; and their children Cheenie Claire, 15; Mark Anthony, 11; and Michael Angelo, 5.

Afalla, who has denied the charges, left the country on April 19 but was arrested by a joint team from the PNP and the National Bureau of Investigation last month in Miami, Florida. He is now detained at the provincial jail here.

Investigators here earlier submitted to the PNP crime laboratory in Camp Crame blood samples gathered from the bludgeoned victims and from materials found in Afalla's van that was believed used in transporting the victims' bodies to a riverbank here where they were buried.

The victims' bodies were found in a shallow grave along the banks of the Magat River in Barangay Don Mariano Marcos here on April 18.

On April 19, Afalla, who works for a foreign shipping company, left his Mitsubishi Adventure van to his elder sister Belinda in Parañaque City. Belinda later surrendered the vehicle to police investigators here after being informed of the murders.

Forensic experts found the vehicle and its contents still intact which enabled them to gather blood traces from the van's chassis and from bloodied sheets inside it.

Police here said matching results of a DNA analysis would reveal a possible link between the crime and Afalla, who was reported to have used the van after the murders.

With the new DNA testing equipment, police officials here were optimistic that the cases against Afalla would gain headway.

"While all we have right now are circumstantial evidence, the DNA (test) results would be a very big boost in our case," said Supt. Romeo Hilomen, Nueva Vizcaya police director.

Hilomen credited the strong coordination between the PNP and the NBI which, he said, led to the arrest and extradition of Afalla from the US.

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Southern Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao will experience cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of the country will be partly cloudy to cloudy with isolated rainshowers or thunderstorms. SOURCE: PAGASA

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Clark Zone Hi 32° Lo 24°	Tagaytay Hi 30° Lo 20°	Legazpi Hi 32° Lo 25°	Calapan Hi 32° Lo 24°
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Compiled by: Ray Leyesa, PDI Research/07/09/01

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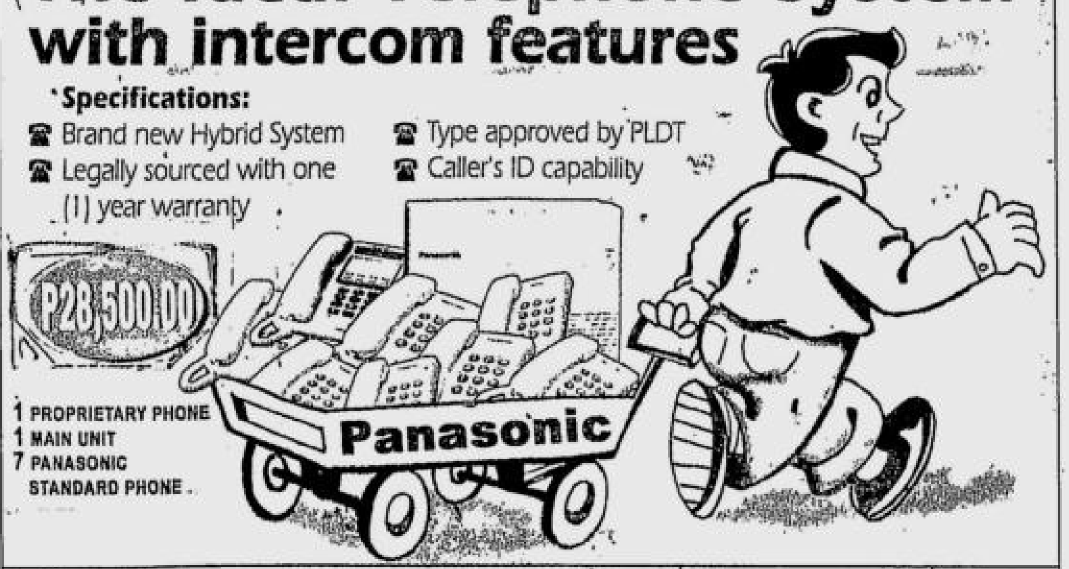
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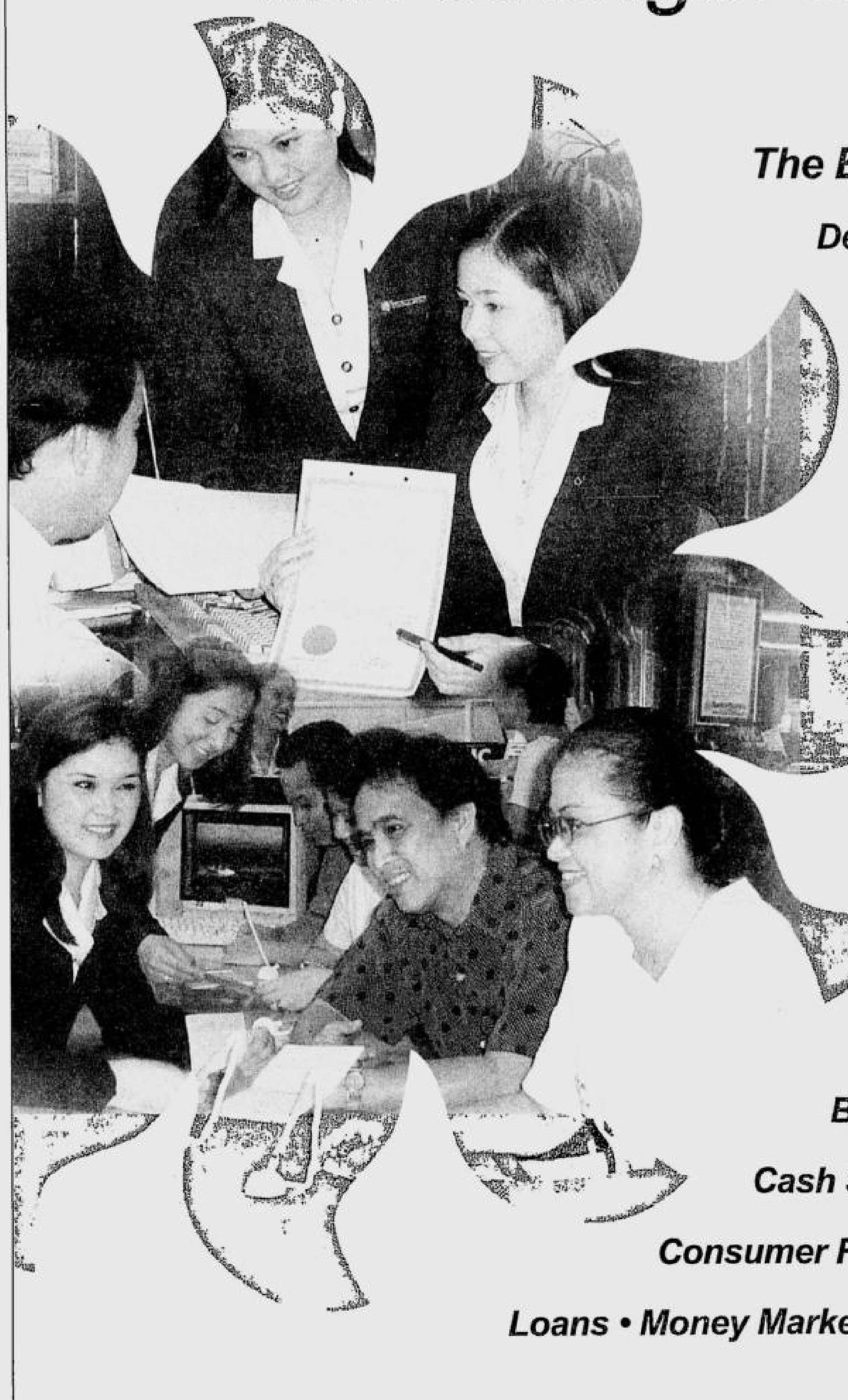
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Court freezes demolition on Zambales beach lot

IBA, Zambales—A local court ordered a status quo on the beachfront property being claimed by the family of Gov. Vicente Magsaysay, allaying fears of some 50 families of a new round of demolition.

Judge Lilia Español of the regional trial court here issued the order on Tuesday after a 20-day temporary restraining order against the demolition of homes and resorts on the property, which she also issued last June 19, lapsed.

The lawyers of Jessmag Inc., residents and beach resort owners in Barangay Lipay Dingin Panibuatan's Purok 5 agreed to maintain the status quo before a preliminary injunction was filed on the ejection case.

Español banned the construction of new structures on the 10-hectare property and its accretion area, or an adjacent portion of the lot created by the accumulation of sand from the South China Sea.

She only allowed the repair of structures and ongoing construction that were started before Jessmag ordered the demolition of 45 homes and fences of resorts on June 12 and 13.

The judge reiterated its order for Jessmag to remove all obstructions or barricades that the corporation put up after the demolition to "allow persons free and unhampered" access to houses, resorts and other establishments in the village.

Español also barred all parties from displaying "might for the purpose of intimidating or threatening their opponents."

She gave the lawyers of Jessmag five days to reply to a motion to conduct a relocation survey in the village.

The residents and the beach resort owners, who are mostly located at the accretion area, claimed that the demolition crew wrecked houses and structures outside the Jessmag property.

In a related development, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources said the land titles of Jessmag in Lipay remained valid as the civil case seeking their cancellation is still pending in the court.

The heirs of the original claimants of Lipay filed the case in 1990 after the Supreme Court and the Court of Appeals reverted the entire Lot 42-E, 13 hectares of which were bought by the Magsaysays, back to the public domain.

The DENR, which handles the dispute over the accretion area, also suspended a 1998 order of Malacañang to divide the lot.

The agency also ordered a relocation survey to establish the boundaries of Lot 42-E and the accretion lot. It also suspended the acceptance and processing of any land applications over the accretion area and to protect it from further influx of settlers. ***Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk***

Western Visayas tops regions in use of vitamins

By Ma. Diosa Labiste
PDI Visayas Bureau

ILOILO CITY—Western Visayas ranks first among the country's 12 regions in the use of vitamin-fortified food to combat malnutrition.

A 1998 survey of the Food and Nutrition Research Institute (FNRI) showed that Western Visayas scored 99 percent in the distribution of food with the Sangkap Pinoy seal and other kinds of food fortified with vitamins.

Western Visayas is composed of six provinces—Aklan, Capiz, Antique, Iloilo, Guimaras and Negros Occidental.

Coming close to Western Visayas are Northern Mindanao, 98.6 percent; Central Luzon, 98.5; Ilocos and Mindanao, 98 percent each. Central Mindanao ranks 12th and last with 93.2 percent.

The Sangkap Pinoy seal is given to food products fortified with Vitamin A and the minerals iron and iodine. It seeks to help consumers make intelligent food choices.

But the regional office of the National Nutrition Council here said the results of the FNRI survey may not be reflective of the true picture especially in the rural areas and depressed districts of the cities.

"While the figures are rosy, they may only reflect consumers' awareness of the seal. Utilization is still wanting," said Nona Tad-y of the NNC in a press conference on Tuesday.

Teresa Garganera, nutritionist of the Iloilo City Health Office, said only 26 percent of 13,000 households in the city used fortified food based on a recent survey conducted by sanitary inspectors.

Among food establishments, only 23 percent used iodized salt and fortified food ingredients in food preparation.

Garganera said the city government was planning to give a seal of approval to restaurants and bakeries, among others, to encourage them to use and sell fortified food.

The food fortification program in Western Visayas is gaining ground after manufacturers of rock salt as well as flour and sugar mills supported the program.

The Iloilo City and Negros Occidental governments also passed separate ordinances to implement Republic Act 8172 (An Act Promoting Salt Iodization Nationwide).

The iodization of salt is a major step in the reduction of iodine deficiency disorders, the most visible consequence of which is goiter.

Fortifying flour with Vitamin A prevents blindness, poor growth and weak immunity to infection. The intake of iron-fortified food prevents anemia, which is most common case of nutrition deficiency affecting a third of the country's population.

The NNC here noted that the number of cases of malnutrition has been on a decline in Western Visayas since 1995. The number of cases of lack of nutrition decreased from 11.9 in 1995 to 7.13 percent in 2000.

Iloilo province, despite being a food basket, ranks first in having the most underweight preschool children. Of 245,000 preschool children weighed, 1,714 suffered from severe malnutrition and 20,000 are moderately underweight, or a prevalence rate of 8.95 percent.

Negros Occidental had the most severely underweight and moderately underweight children below six years old at 2,000 and 27,000 respectively. But the province has only a 6.79 percent rate of malnutrition among its population.

Black bugs threaten farms in 7 towns in Bohol

By Chito Fuentes
PDI Visayas Bureau

TAGBILARAN CITY—Boholano farmers are facing a new threat—the Malaysian rice black bug.

The black bugs have been spotted in at least seven towns in the province, said agricultural technician Larry Pamugas of the Office of the Provincial Agriculturist (OPA).

He identified these towns as Bilar, Loay, Lila, Valencia, Dimiao, Batuan and Carmen.

The OPA is also monitoring eight more towns as the black bugs might spread to these neighboring areas.

"Although we have yet to actually prove it, we learned that the black bug can fly a distance of one kilometer," said Sergio Cuaco, also of the OPA.

The black bugs, which are known to multiply fast, can destroy rice plants by constantly nibbling at their stalks. Hardly visible except to the trained eye, the black bugs are often unnoticed until they have caused considerable damage.

Pamugas said the first sightings of the dreaded bugs were reported in the second week of May in Bilar town, at the peak of the election campaign.

The bugs, like moths, are easily attracted to strong light. Various campaign activities, particularly the political rallies in the town, during which bright lights were used, could have attracted the bugs.

Pamugas said the latest reported sighting was in neighboring Batuan town.

"The strong light near the church drew the bugs. They were also sighted at a place where a vigil was held," he recalled.

OPA personnel had been conducting operations to determine how serious the infestation is in areas where the bugs were reported sighted.

In Bilar last month, Pamugas said technicians reported that some four gallons of bugs were exterminated during what agriculturists call light trapping operations.

Farmers and agricultural technicians use electric bulbs or petromax lamps, which are placed over basins loaded with water and treated with insecticide solutions.

Cuaco said the light trapping operations alone cannot solve the problem but were effective in luring the bugs out and identifying the areas where they are present.

The black bug invasion was first reported in Bohol in 1999 but there were no reports of the pests last year.

Cotabato airport declared hazardous for jets

COTABATO CITY—The Philippine Airlines refused to continue servicing its Manila-Cotabato route after the runway of the Cotabato Airport in Maguindanao was heavily damaged.

Edilberto Yap, assistant director of the transportation office, said PAL indicated that it would only resume its daily flights once the 2-kilometer runway of the airport is rehabilitated.

PAL was complaining of pebbles and sand being sucked by engines of its aircraft.

It said these objects could cause major damage to the aircraft, which would in turn endanger the lives of its passengers.

"We don't want to compromise the safety of the passengers and the aircraft itself from these runway hazards," Domingo Duerme, PAL sales vice president for Mindanao, said.

But the Air Transportation Office (ATO) said it has no funds immediately available to start the repair and instead decided to close the airport to jet-propelled aircraft effective July 6.

"I'm asking for a cash advance or a supplemental budget to have it repaired, but the office is cash-strapped," Yap said.

He said if there was any available fund, the restoration of the runway could be completed in 28 days.

"I don't want jet operation in Cotabato suspended for long because this is the city's life blood," Yap said.

Businessmen in the city are now worried over the suspension of PAL's flights, according to Rolando Doria, secretary of the Metro Cotabato Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

Yap said the ATO's annual budget for maintenance and repair has not increased despite the building of new airports in the country.

The Cotabato airport went under "major repair" in 1998, but Yap said it was only a "band-aid solution of patching" runway potholes.

"It has to be something more concrete," he said. ***Charlie Señase, PDI Mindanao Bureau***

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Gloria eroding Erap's 'masa' base, survey shows

(From page A1)

tends to plunge.

Highlights

These are the highlights of the June 15-26 survey of Pulse Asia:

- The President's net approval rating (NAR) rose to +41 percent from +22 percent in April and +28 percent in May. Her net approval rating in March was +63 percent.
- Regionally, her NAR in Mindanao (where the opposition won heavily in the May 14 elections) increased to +36, up from +3. In Metro Manila, her NAR increased to +44, a gain of 30 percentage points.

In the Visayas (which voted heavily for the administration's People Power Coalition senatorial candidates), however, her NAR dropped by 8 percentage points, from +49 in May to +41 in June.

- More significantly, she increased her NAR across all socioeconomic classes. Classes ABC, as expected, gave her the highest approval rating, +55, an increase of 14 percentage points compared with that in May. Surprisingly, Class D gave her +41, up from +29 in May.

But her biggest gain among classes came from Class E (the poorest and Estrada's main electoral constituency) which gave her a gain of 23 percentage points—+49 compared with +17 in May.

- The President's trust rating showed recovery, but the rebound was less impressive. She received a +30 net trust rating in June, up from +16 in April, but lower than the +38 she received in March.
- However, Estrada was also staging a recovery of his trust ratings. His trust rating increased to 31 percent in June, from 25 percent in March. According to Pulse Asia, public distrust for him has dropped significantly from April (50 percent) to the present June level of 34 percent.

Consequently, his net trust level—while still negative and thus reflecting more public distrust than trust—has improved quite a bit (-3), with trust and distrust being marginally almost the same (31 percent trust, 34 percent distrust).

Estrada received higher levels of trust than President Macapagal among the least educated, the poorest and people from Mindanao.

- The survey showed that 43 percent of Filipinos believed the quality of life of the people was worse than last year, and another 43 percent saying it was the same as before. Most of those who claimed their quality of life had deteriorated came from Mindanao and the rural areas.
- Forty-seven percent of the respondents believed that the most urgent national concern was economic recovery; 40 percent, poverty; 38 percent, law and order; 36 percent, high prices; and 28 percent, low wages.

Impact on poor

The President's recovery in approval ratings among the poorer classes indicates that her campaign of reaching out to the poor is having an impact. She is eroding the base of Estrada's *masa* constituency, and the masses are slowly waking up to the reality that empty pro-poor slogans cannot lift them from poverty.

They are beginning to recognize that they have been manipulated, deceived and used for violent and illegal projects by their self-proclaimed messiahs who have amassed considerable wealth in public office.

Ms Macapagal's visits to urban poor shantytowns have not in fact delivered significant welfare services to the poor, and it would seem that their effect has been to tranquilize them into giving her the benefit of the doubt.

Given that the government has scarce resources with which to finance anti-poverty programs, the President has merely offered them hopes or demonstrated she cares for them.

The focus of her modest anti-poverty program is job creation among the young people in the urban slums through a mini-emergency employment program—a much modest version of President Diosdado Macapagal's New Deal-type of emergency employment scheme. Her program aims at giving a pilot demonstration effect on a focused area.

Her immediate-term emergency employment program has a limited scope but it addresses a constituency of political and social unrest that is the recruitment field for demonstrations in support of Estrada and even the rebellion of the poor.

My reading of the results is that Estrada's constituency has begun to be reconciled to the idea that he belongs to the past and to accept the reality that he has to face the judicial process involving his criminal cases.

The results also suggest that the Abu Sayyaf abductions and the crime incidence in Metro Manila are short-term problems that should not be allowed to distract attention from the main issues—economic recovery and poverty alleviation.

Calming down

The survey was conducted after the May elections. Its findings reflect a nation that has calmed down from the high-intensity tensions generated by the May 1 rebellion and the election campaign.

It seems to me that the nation cannot remain in a permanent state of high-level tension, and that the people are weary of conflict and political mobilization.

The people are settling down to some kind of hard work and to an environment in which they can put their shoulders behind efforts aimed at economic recovery.

The elections have channeled political conflict and tensions into the parliamentary arena, away from the streets and political rabble-rousing.

Despite the economic and political shocks the people had received over the past six months, they don't seem to blame the Macapagal administration for all their woes.

They may not have given it a high trust rating. But the more dramatic rise of approval rating suggests a recognition that the government works hard, is serious, is relatively honest, is organized, is intelligent, and has a direction—things that the people seem to appreciate as a precondition to good government and delivery of results.

More results

The lower trust rating indicates that the government should show more results in the short term in alleviating poverty, reviving economic growth, curbing crime and demonstrating a capacity for good governance.

The results indicate a recovery of the people's confidence in government—a confidence not shared by the business community that has a different yardstick for confidence. Its yardstick is the opportunities to make profits.

The administration has not promised the moon; consequently, it has not raised unrealistic expectations in the delivery of economic results.

It has been short on living up to expectations from its allies in so-called "civil society," which are impatient over translating "new politics" from an ideal into a working political formula.

But delivery of results to the poor takes higher priority than romantic notions that the political culture can be changed overnight by people power demonstration changing a government without shedding blood.

The nation appears to be putting Estrada and political turbulence behind it. The Macapagal administration has been given a breathing spell and more space from which to launch economic recovery measures.

This space should not be squandered by complacency.

Troops given 90 days to crush kidnappers

(From page A1)

British nationals have reportedly been kidnapped in Metro Manila this year. All reportedly paid ransom.

While the kidnappings have caused the PNP much embarrassment, the AFP has been severely criticized for failing to end a five-week-old hostage crisis involving Abu Sayyaf bandits in Basilan.

The bandits snatched 20 Filipinos and Americans from the Dos Palmas Resort in Palawan on May 27. Thirteen hostages have been freed or rescued while two Filipinos have been killed.

The bandits, who claim to have executed one of the three American hostages, later snatched four hospital employees and 15 plantation workers. Two of the workers were also found beheaded last month.

Reshuffle

Military setbacks in Basilan have led to a minor reshuffle of commands.

The AFP on Saturday sacked Brig. Gen. Romeo Dominguez, commander of some 5,000 Army soldiers deployed against the Abu Sayyaf in Basilan.

Brig. Gen. Glicerio Sua replaced Dominguez as head of the Army's 1st Infantry Division whose area of jurisdiction likewise covers Sulu, where the Abu Sayyaf also operates.

"We just want to have a commander familiar in the area," AFP spokesperson Brig. Gen. Edilberto Adan said Sunday. "(Sua) is in a good position to accomplish our mission."

Dominguez replaced Maj. Gen. Rufo de Veyra as commander of the 8th Infantry Division based in Samar.

De Veyra will be appointed superintendent of the Philippine Military Academy. The current superintendent, Maj. Gen. Manuel Carranza, will take over the AFP Visayas Command from Maj. Julius Javier who is scheduled to retire soon.

Sua earlier replaced Dominguez as head of "Task Force Comet," a special military group hunting down the Abu Sayyaf in Basilan, a position he will retain in his expanded role.

Officials said Sua's appointment as division commander would greatly boost the morale of the troops in Basilan.

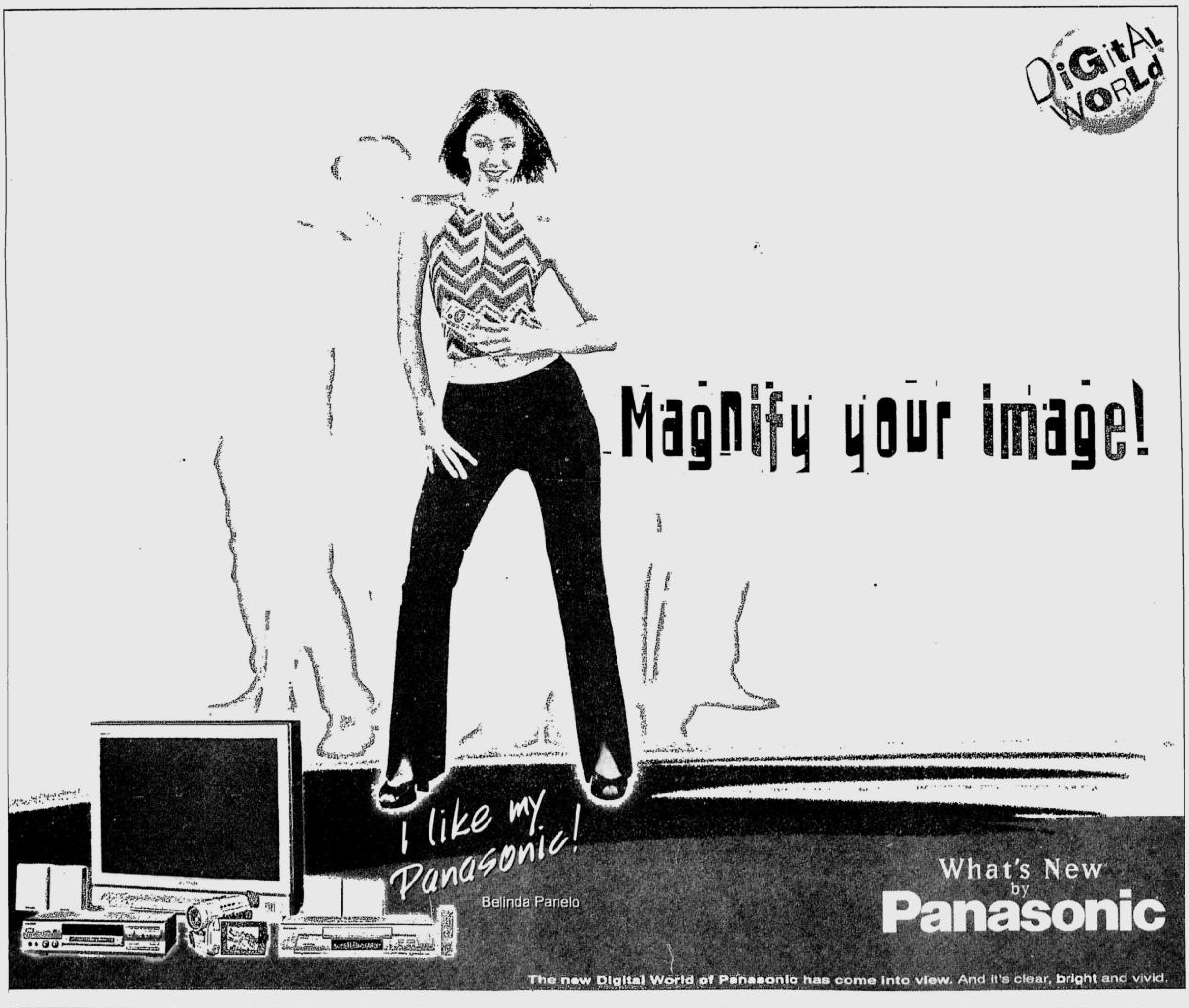
Sua, a Scout Ranger and former Army operations chief, headed a military operation that overran an Abu Sayyaf camp last year during a similar hostage crisis involving Filipino schoolchildren and teachers.

Col. Jovenal Narcise was also sacked as brigade commander after the Abu Sayyaf bandits slipped through a military cordon in Lamitan town on June 2.

While commanders are being shuffled, the military deployed bomb-sniffing dogs in Basilan to prevent the Abu Sayyaf from staging any bomb attacks in heavily populated areas.

Late Wednesday, the Abu Sayyaf bombed the Basilan capital of Isabela in what the military suspected was an attempt to divert security forces from tracking the main group of bandits holding the hostages.

The police and military on Sunday were also checking field reports that Abu Sayyaf leaders Abu Sabaya and Khaddafy Janjalani had slipped past a military cordon in Basilan for nearby Zamboanga City. ***With reports from Carlito Pablo and AFP***



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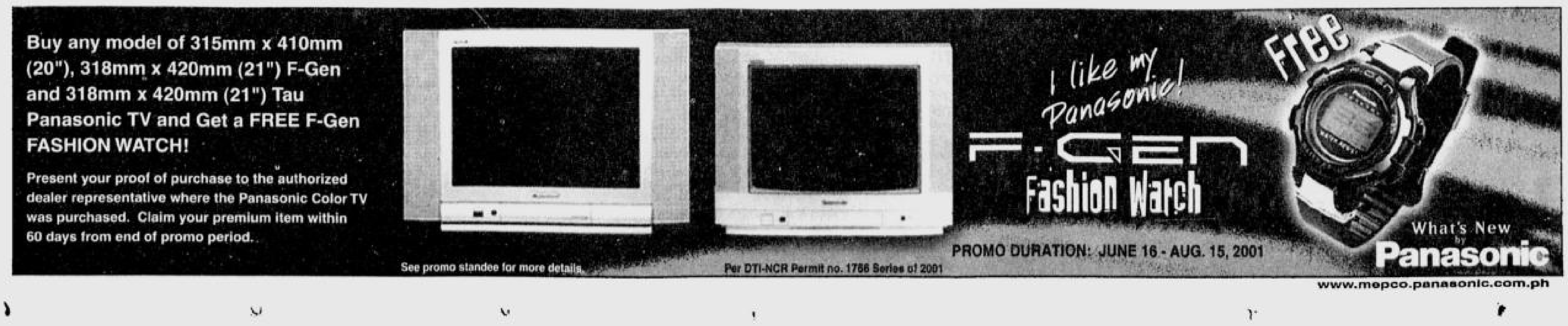

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Guns-for-hire thrive in Ilocos towns

(From page A1)

"Everyone knows (Mahor) has killed some people in the (Ilocos) region and elsewhere. That's why he's in and out of jail. The problem is no witnesses have come forward to testify against him," Tagatac told the INQUIRER.

Mahor neither confirmed nor denied his alleged involvement in several murder cases. He claimed that he had no idea why he was in jail.

"When the supposed Quinto murder took place, I was with my boss (losing Paoay, Ilocos Norte mayoral candidate Bonifacio "Bobby" Clemente). I'm one of his bodyguards," Mahor said.

In a report, the Philippine National Police regional headquarters in San Fernando, La Union, described Mahor and Tolentino as "known killers.'

Cottage industry

Provincial prosecutor Melecio Felipe called the hit men a "cottage industry" in Badoc, a claim confirmed by the town's former mayor, Jimmy Raña, and two municipal employees.

Raña, now an Ilocos Norte board member, said that for the past four decades, hired guns were a dime a dozen in the two Ilocos provinces. But figures on the number of hired guns are, at best, rough estimates, he said.

"The majority of Badoc residents are Virginia tobacco, garlic, corn and rice farmers but some of our menfolk are, unfortunately, engaged in a not-so-ordinary occupation. They kill people for a living," Raña said.

"They say you can have someone killed for P20,000 to P50,000, or more. It really depends on who's the target. If you happen to know the killer, it will cost you only a cigarette stick or a bottle of gin," he said.

No ideology

No ideology fuels hired guns. Their brand of killing is not in any way a form of militant nationalism.

Raña should know. When interviewed at his Badoc residence, the lawyer admitted that he had handled several cases involving "personalities," his term for hired killers.

"As a lawyer, it's my duty to defend a person regardless of my belief in that person's innocence or guilt," Raña explained. He took up the cudgels for the suspected guns-for-hire "*pro bono* (for free)."

Raña did not name his former clients but said he knew Mahor and Tolentino, who both come from Barangay Caraitan. Local residents refer to "other known killers" like the "Vergara and Valdez brothers."

"Here in Badoc (pop.: about 28,000), everybody knows everybody. Just recently, some (guns-for-hire) came to see me. They had the temerity to ask, 'Boss, *baka may ipayayari ka* (do you want someone killed)?' I told them point-blank: 'I didn't need their services.' That's not my kind of politics," Raña said.

But "most often, hired guns do not operate here in Badoc. Some say this town exports them. The truth is they get imported. And if they do their thing outside of Badoc, then it is beyond our control." Raña said.

Tolentino's cousin, Kennedy, who is also detained at the provincial jail, is "another gun-for-hire," a jail guard said. "Two other relatives of Roderick (Tolentino) are said to be in the same trade," he said.

Another suspected hit man is Pacifico Agapay, who has been detained at the provincial jail for more than two years. The Badoc native and former member of the Citizens Armed Forces Geographical Unit is accused of killing, among others, a Vigan resident in 1998.

Agapay, 32, who claimed to be a tobacco farmer and tricycle driver, spent more than a year in jail in 1990, also for murder. Criminal charges against him were dropped when the complainant and witnesses failed to appear in court.

Fr. Danilo Laeda, Badoc parish priest, said "Badoc is a small town. Locals know who they (guns-for-hire) are. But some pretend to be deaf and blind."

Laeda's late father Danilo did not die a natural death. He was killed by a hit man, a Badoc municipal employee recalled.

Like "old ghosts," hired killers have haunted Badoc since the 1960s, Laeda said.

During an interview shortly after the May 14 elections in Currimao, former Vice Mayor Clemente "Boting" Lazo Jr. gave this reporter an unsolicited advice: "If you want someone killed, go to Badoc or Narvacan. It's easy to hire killers there."

Wreckage, spinning wheels

Narvacan is 375 kilometers north of Manila and just two towns away from Vigan City, the provincial capital.

The municipality, which in Ilocano literally means "you are wrecked," prides itself of its exotic scenery and industrious townsfolk.

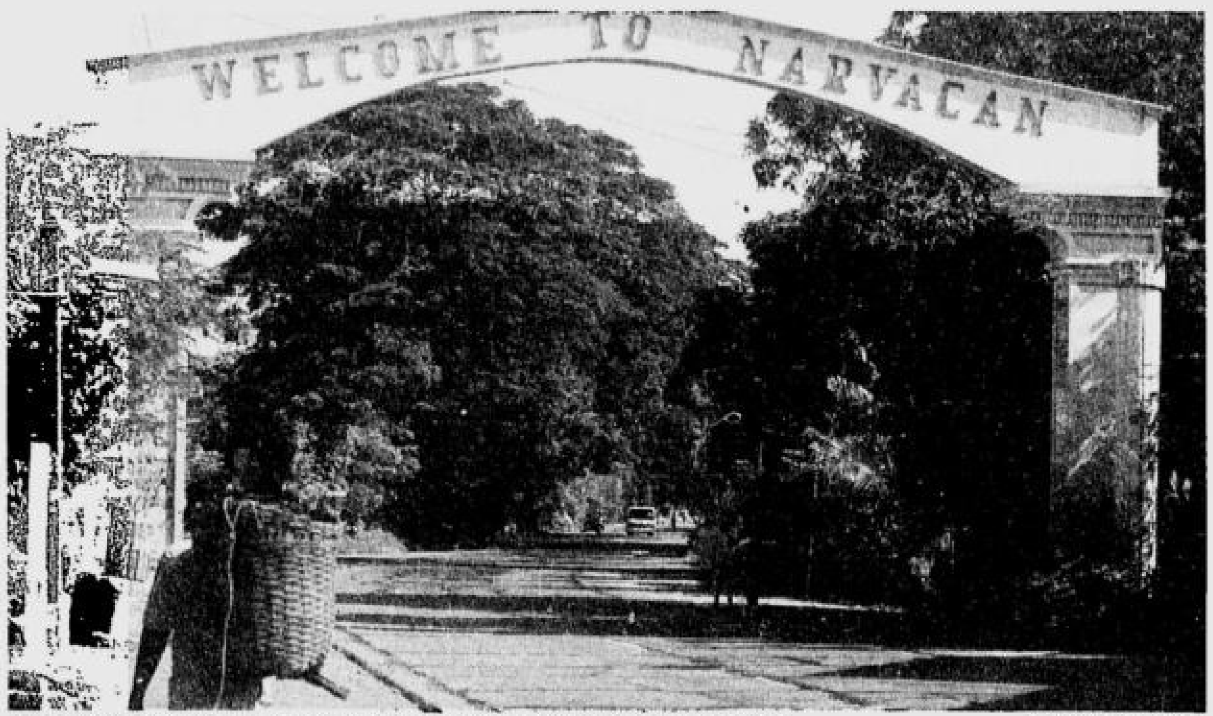
During the late 1940s and early 1950s, spinning mills made Narvacan famous. Guns-for-hire and other criminals made the town infamous during the next three decades.

Narvacan has been a peaceful town since the late 1980s, "until the recent arrest of Agustin Cabrales," a suspected hit man, according to former Mayor Edgardo Zaragoza.

Cabrales, who is from Barangay Bantay Abat, Narvacan, is said to be a bodyguard of ex-Currimao Mayor Cirilo Quilala. On May 16, the Currimao police charged him with arson.

Cabrales tried to set the Currimao municipal building on fire, reported Insp. Chito Sancho Esmenda, Currimao police chief.

Cabrales and his three companions, including another Narvacan resident, alias "Butsoy," were seen riding an L300 van belonging to Quilala before his arrest, said a PNP report. Quilala has denied his alleged links to Cabrales' group.



HIT MEN'S haven? Huge arch welcomes visitors to Narvacan, Ilocos Sur. RANDY HORMILLOSA

"But Narvacan should not be faulted for the alleged illegal activities of some of its residents," former Narvacan Mayor Edgardo Zaragoza said.

Zaragoza said, "it's our misfortune that some so-called guns-for-hire come from this town. It's true, Narvacan was a ghost town in the past."

Culture of hatred

Fr. Vicente Avila, the parish priest, called hired guns "residues of the past when there was a culture of hatred and division in this part of Ilocos Sur."

"It's difficult to break old habits but (the Catholic Church) is doing its part to help change the town's negative image with projects like Sisa (acronym for Simbaan Sangakarrubaan or neighborhood church). We're trying to reach out to our male parishioners especially those in remote areas," Avila said.

To rid itself of the stigma, Narvacan is "undergoing a spiritual renewal movement," which Zaragoza launched when he assumed his post in 1988.

"I think we've succeeded in making the town one of Ilocos Sur's most peaceful municipalities," he said.

Without naming names, Ilocos Sur Gov. Deogracias Victor Savellano said "hired killers and goons exist because there are politicians who maintain them. It's an old problem." Isabela Rep. Rodolfo Albano said the same thing.

Chavit

Some local politicians have accused former Ilocos Sur Gov. Luis "Chavit" Singson of employing hired killers during his nearly 30 years in politics. But Singson denied the charge, saying he had suspected hit men investigated during his term.

"I never tolerated them and their illegal activities," Singson told the INQUIRER.

PNP files showed that even Singson's men were not spared by suspected hired killers. On April 3, 1993, Juanito Sabado was shot dead by a group of men reportedly led by Narvacan Councilor Jose Corrales. Six of the 11 accused remain at large.

Singson said "some politicians are to blame because they protect and maintain hired guns."

"The goons become swellheaded when they get protection from politicians. In my case, if my men become abusive, I dissociate with them. I have them either jailed or fired," Singson said in Filipino.

Armed groups and polls

Senior Supt. Arturo Lomibao, PNP-Region 1 director, furnished the INQUIRER a copy of a report stating that "the employment of private armed groups by some political candidates during the May 14 elections was the major factor that adversely affected the peaceful conduct of the election in Region 1."

Th region comprises Ilocos Norte, Ilocos Sur, La Union and Pangasinan.

The report said that the suspected hired guns "committed almost all the reported poll-related violent incidents . . . There may be other (members of) private armed groups who were able to escape arrest by law enforcement agencies. (But) efforts are being undertaken to determine their identities and whereabouts for subsequent manhunt operations."

Before, during and after the May polls, hired guns reportedly turned the sleepy coastal town of Currimao into a "ghost town," prompting newly elected Mayor Rosario Go to ask help from Malacañang.

Go's camp alleged that the armed men belonged to losing mayoral candidate Quilala and vice mayoral candidate Lazo. Both denied the charge.

The Commission on Elections declared the town (pop.: 11,000) a "hot spot" and placed it under its control during the last election.

"We can't even leave the house because of the threats and acts of intimidation by those goons," said the 67-year-old Go. "It's like being under house arrest."

Ambush

Go's son, Currimao Vice Mayor Wilbur Go, was ambushed and killed on Nov. 27, 1999 near the Nipa Hut beach resort in the town by hit men carrying rifle grenades. The killing is one of the many unsolved murder cases in the region.

In Paoay town, guns-for-hire were believed behind the April 12 murder of Jose Cabel, chair of Barangay Suba.

In a letter to Ilocos Norte Gov. Ferdinand "Bongbong" Marcos Jr., Paoay Mayor Reginita Nenuca Evangelista reported that "on the night before the (May 14) elections, a group of Sangguniang Kabataan members were mercilessly gunned down by followers of losing mayoral and vice mayoral candidates Bonifacio Clemente and Florentino Dumlao."

"After the ambush, my residence was fired upon by armed goons suspected to be followers of Clemente and Dumlao," Evangelista said.

Former Paoay Mayor Tony Evangelista said the local police seemed helpless. "Actually, some looked the other way when the goons terrorized our town," he said.

At the Badoc town library, a 1972 document described the typical Badoqueño as "respectful, hospitable and peace-loving. However, whenever his rights are trampled upon or he is unreasonably provoked, he is apt to forget himself and put the law into his hands."

"Like Juan Luna, described by a history book as a 'man with a terrible temper.' In 1892, Luna stood trial in Paris for killing his wife (Paz Pardo de Tavera) in a fit of jealousy and his mother-in-law (Juliana Gorricho)," the document said.

Honorable trade

For some Ilocanos, being a hit man is an honorable trade, especially if one is coming to the aid of the common people.

"Some say it's their noble side. They are feared by many but accepted by Ilocanos to a certain degree. They have carved out a secure niche for themselves and some Ilocanos have learned to live with them," said Senior Supt. Wilmer Panabang, PNP-Region 1 chief of staff.

"Some enlist the help of hit men to seek alternative justice, one that is not only swift but also less costly," Panabang said. "There are some Ilocanos who do not believe in long court litigation. Instead, it's eye for an eye, tooth for a tooth. That's where hired killers come in."

Narvacan Judge Ulpiano Campos said he "could not blame those who find the wheels of justice grind exceedingly slow."

In 1992, there were more than 600 cases pending before the local court, which has jurisdiction over at least 10 interior towns. "Now, it's less than 200. So there's an improvement," Campos said as he stressed that "people should not put the law into their hands."

Last month, three members of a family in Barangay Bato, Naguilian, La Union, two of them pregnant women, were killed by five suspected hit men.

One of the women fatalities, a victim of rape last year, was dragged out of the house, taken to a forested area about 100 meters away and then stabbed and shot to death.

The suspected rapist was believed to have hired the killers to get rid of the complainant in the rape case, according to a PNP official.

Filling the void

Mahor, Agapay and Tolentino are currently in jail. But there are many other Badoc and Narvacan guns-for-hire who will fill the void.

Singson said "they will probably be around for many, many years, as long as there are politicians and local folk who avail themselves of their services."

But Ilocanos, who are by and large a deeply religious, peace loving and hardworking folk, "should not be proud of these people and what they do," Singson said matter-of-factly.

Ilocandia has given to the country the likes of Luna; Diego Silang and his wife, Gabriela; Artemio Ricarte; Isabelo de los Reyes; and Gregorio Aglipay, who symbolize certain admirable traits of the Ilocanos.

Badoc and Narvacan's hired killers belong to an entirely different category.

San Juan . . .

(From page A1)

If his arraignment two weeks ago on a separate charge of perjury is any indication, Estrada will probably refuse again to enter a plea of either guilty or innocent when he is arraigned tomorrow for plunder and illegal use of an alias.

Although Estrada son JV Ejercito is San Juan's new mayor, "not all the residents in San Juan believe in the Estradas," claimed Romy Abaya, convenor of Plunder Watch-San Juan.

Late last year, the first local chapter of the Estrada Resign Movement, launched at the height of the then President's impeachment trial, was also formed in San Juan.

"Most of the people here condemn the way the Estrada and his sons have been ruling this town," Abaya said of the crowd of around 200 at yesterday's launching at the Mary the Queen Parish on Madison Street in Greenhills.

Aside from the San Juan residents, members of various groups such as Bayan Muna, Kilusang Mayo Uno, Selda and Anakbayan attended the affair.

Security

More than 2,000 policemen will be deployed tomorrow at the Sandiganbayan in Quezon City to prevent pro- and anti-Estrada supporters from disrupting the former President's scheduled plunder arraignment, according to police officers at the Central Police District.

Estrada's perjury arraignment took place under heavy security and amid official reports of expected destabilization efforts, which came to naught.

A police source told the INQUIRER that security agents would be on heightened alert along Estrada's route from the Veteran's Memorial Medical Center to the anti-graft court because authorities were taking seriously reports of a new assassination plot against the former President.

But Senior Supt. Rodolfo Tor, CPD director, said that "at my level," officers had not received any reports of such a security threat against Estrada.

Still, the police however will start searching for bombs on Sandiganbayan premises tonight, the source said.

Ani to go to SC

Ombudsman Aniano Desierto is set to ask the Supreme Court this week to reconsider its decision upholding the bank secrecy law, saying the ruling would frustrate government efforts to go after Estrada's alleged secret accounts, which prosecutors claim are kept in several banks across the country.

"This will surely hinder our efforts to gather additional evidence against him," Desierto said.

The ruling shields Estrada in all three cases—plunder, perjury and illegal use of an alias—before the Sandiganbayan, the Ombudsman said.

The high court handed down the unanimous ruling on June 27 in connection with a separate case: the controversial deal between the Public Estates Authority and the Amari Coastal Development Bay Corp. under the Ramos administration.

All 15 Supreme Court justices agreed that the Ombudsman has no authority to look into private bank records while investigating a graft complaint and can only access them once a case has been filed in a court that then provides authorization.

The ruling provided exceptions, but none appears to apply to Estrada's cases.

Desierto said the ruling would weaken the government's capacity to uncover hidden or even laundered wealth of former public officials in such high profile cases as the PEA-Amari deal.

"The Supreme Court, in the past, had always upheld the Ombudsman's order to look into the bank accounts of people who are being investigated by this office," Desierto said.

The Ombudsman is still investigating several other plunder complaints against the deposed President, and he fears that the ruling may be used by Estrada's lawyers to bar his office from looking into other hidden accounts believed to belong to the former leader.

Estrada has reiterated he has no secret bank accounts and offered to ask two private banks to open his records to government investigators.

"If they would ask me, I'll volunteer to give these to them and ask the banks to release all records so everybody will know I'm not hiding anything," he said in a recent radio interview.

Lawyers to go to SC

Lawyers of Jinggoy Estrada plan to file a habeas corpus case—inquiring into the lawfulness of the younger Estrada's detention—before the Supreme Court in a bid to regain his freedom.

This was revealed yesterday by a source on the defense team who said that the move would not necessarily affect tomorrow's scheduled arraignment.

The younger Estrada's lawyers had earlier filed a motion to quash the plunder case against their client on the grounds that the former San Juan mayor was implicated only in one count in the plunder case.

Plunder, they contended, is a series of acts to amass ill-gotten wealth more than P50 million.

The motion to quash, filed in April, is still unresolved.

Jinggoy "is depressed already. It has been delayed for so long," the source said.

If the motion to dismiss the plunder case is denied, the source said, the defense will elevate it to the High Court.

In the meantime, the source said, the lawyers plan to file a "straight" habeas corpus case before the Supreme Court.

Critics of the Estradas have criticized the defense panel for delaying the trial by filing motion after motion.

Desierto told the Sandiganbayan that as of last week, the defense panel had filed at least 41 motions, not counting separate manifestations and omnibus motions.

Media coverage bill

In the Senate, Sen. Renato Cayetano has refiled a bill seeking to allow media coverage of court proceedings, following a Supreme Court ruling banning the press from airing live television and radio coverage of Estrada's trial.

Called the "Media Coverage of Court Proceedings Act," the proposed measure seeks to authorize a presiding judge to allow the photographing, electronic recording, broadcasting or televising to the public of proceedings in his or her courtroom.

Senate Bill No. 1181 "seeks to promote legal reform by giving discretion to a presiding judge or justice to permit the televising or media coverage of court proceedings in his *sala*, including civil and criminal trials and appeals," Cayetano said.

His bill is patterned after the so-called "Sunshine in the Courtroom" bill pending in the US House of Representatives.

Cayetano said media coverage of court proceedings would enable the public to "closely watch judges, prosecutors and lawyers at work and evaluate how they perform their jobs."

Estrada has said he favors the television coverage as long as journalists refrain from commentaries that portray him as guilty even before the court reaches a decision.

Cayetano's bill, if passed into law, would authorize the Supreme Court to draw up advisory guidelines for judges on managing media coverage of court proceedings. ***With reports from Christine Avendano and Philip C. Tubeza; AP***

Ador gains credibility . . .

(From page A1)

very credible," VACC head Dante Jimenez told the INQUIRER.

Among those invited to attend the launching are lawyer Leonardo de Vera, Guillermo Luz of the Makati Business Club, running priest Fr. Robert Reyes, businesswoman Sofia Zobel, and a son of businessman Jose Concepcion.

Most of those invited were on the list of prominent people that Lacson had allegedly planned to abduct as part of the destabilization plot against the Macapagal administration.

Lacson had sent each of them letters denying Ador's allegation that he would abduct them.

Also invited to the launching were the Council of Philippine Affairs, party-list group Bayan Muna and Gabriela.

Before taking the drug test, Ador had taken a lie detector test under the supervision of the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) for a total of five times. He passed them all.

Ador confirmed that the drug test found him negative for shabu and marijuana.

Still, his passing the tests is apparently not enough to convince the Department of Justice (DOJ) to consider Ador's inclusion in its Witness Protection Program.

Where's the body?

Informed of the results of Ador's tests, Justice Secretary Hernando Perez insisted on the need to produce Bentain's remains to prove that he was dead.

"If there is proof of *corpus delicti* and (Ador's) testimony is enough to establish a prima facie case, then he could be placed under (the) Witness Protection Program," Perez said in a text message in response to a query by the INQUIRER.

Ador alleges that Bentain was abducted, mauled and placed in a drum full of cement before he was buried alive by PAOCTF civilian agents in Bacolor, Pampanga.

He said the order to abduct and kill Bentain came from Senior Superintendents Cesar Mancao and Michael Ray Aquino of the PAOCTF.

The Intelligence Service of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (Isafp) has in its custody a woman who claimed to have seen a drum full of cement near the site where Bentain was dumped.

This development has apparently encouraged Col. Victor Corpus, head of Isafp that now holds Ador in its "protective custody."

"Until now we are still searching for (Bentain's) body," Corpus told the INQUIRER in a telephone interview.

Not libel suit

Lacson said it would be difficult to charge Ador with libel because he would have to include in the case the reporters, editors and publishers of newspapers that printed Ador's allegations.

Aside from the tedious and complicated legal process, he might create other enemies if he filed a libel case against Ador, according to Lacson.

Lacson said he would file the perjury case against Ador with the DOJ.

The senator said he might file a complaint with the Prosecutor's Office if he decided to implicate some government officials he suspected of encouraging Ador to discredit him.

Lacson was specifically referring to Corpus whom Lacson accused of being Ador's handler.

A "handler" as known in police and military circles is somebody who gives orders to civilian agents like Ador.

Corpus denied he was Ador's handler and even vowed to retire if Ador was found to be a government stooge let loose to discredit Lacson.

Insane?

But Lacson said Ador and Corpus should be detained in a mental institution because both of them were insane.

"Colonel Corpus is the last person on this earth to take Ador seriously. So I believe they deserve each other. I suggest they both go to the National Mental Hospital," the former PNP chief said.

Lacson said he would like to know the identities of the people, who allegedly instructed Corpus and Senior Supt. Reynaldo Berroya, police intelligence chief, to destroy his reputation.

Lacson said the allegations against him started when he filed his certificate of candidacy for senator. The accusations became uglier after he won a Senate seat, he added.

Lacson said some of Corpus' men in Isafp had vowed to put him behind bars before the May 14 elections.

"Some of his (Corpus) men in Isafp were reporting to me even during the campaign that Col. Corpus was so determined in putting me in jail before the election. He said 'he (Lacson) can't win a seat in the Senate because I will have him jailed before the elections,'" Lacson said.

But the senator admitted that he was surprised that Corpus was running after him when there was no bad blood between them.

Lacson said this would be the last time he would answer questions about Ador because it was a "waste of time" talking about somebody, who is "*sira ulo* (crazy)."

"If we kept talking about him, *baka mamaya pati tayo mahawa na rin* (we might get infected)," he said.

Appeal for sobriety

"Let's hear out Ador first," the Armed Forces of the Philippines said as it appealed for sobriety.

Ador yesterday started executing a sworn statement, which may be used as basis in filing criminal charges against Lacson.

"We're not playing politics here," AFP spokesperson Brig. Gen. Edilberto Adan said.

"The test is that Ador's testimony should either stand by itself or be corroborated by other witnesses. It should be taken as such by those who will make a judgment, particularly our courts," Adan said.

The military spokesperson stressed that the military's role was simply to provide Ador and his family protection.

"What he is revealing are serious matters and that's why Isafp is providing him security," Adan said.

After days of revealing to the media the alleged crimes of Lacson and his trusted men at the PAOCTF, Ador started the task of putting these into a legal document.

Ador is being assisted by human rights lawyers inside the headquarters of Isafp.

Corpus said that Ador's sworn statement "may take hours" to prepare.

"Let's just wait for this," Corpus said when asked if Ador had more surprises in store against Lacson.

Ador's sworn statement is expected to be made public any day soon.

In an earlier three-page statement, Ador said he was part of a six-man team, led by Aquino and Mancao, which abducted Bentain in the morning of Jan. 16, 1999.

Estrada's son Jude allegedly gave the team P15 million for finishing off Bentain.

If Bentain's body is recovered, Edcel, younger brother of the casino employee, said he and his family would file criminal charges against Estrada, Lacson, Aquino and Mancao.

Jimenez said De Vera would head a team of lawyers that would file a case against those behind Bentain's murder.

The VACC chair said Ador would serve as star witness after the filing of the case.

Edcel said, "now is the perfect time to launch the movement."

"During the past administration, we couldn't launch it because we knew the masterminds were in power. We knew it was impossible to get justice for Edgar."

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ORIGIN: MANILA

DESTINATION	FLT NO.	FREQ.	ETD	ETA	ONE-WAY FARES		
					NORMAL	VALUE	2-DAY ADVANCE PURCHASE
CEBU	5J - 557	Daily	0130	0240	P2,608	P2,049	
	5J - 559	Daily	0500	0610	P2,608	P2,309	
	5J - 561	Daily	0700	0810			P1,999
	5J - 563	Daily	0900	1010			
	5J - 565	Daily	1100	1210			
	5J - 567	Daily	1300	1410			
	5J - 569	Daily	1500	1610			
	5J - 571	Daily	1700	1810			
DAVAO	5J - 961	Daily	0430	0610	P3,307	P2,919	P2,399
	5J - 963	Daily	1020	1200			
	5J - 965	Daily	1240	1420			
	5J - 567/597*	Daily	1300	1540			
	5J - 967	Daily	1600	1740			
CAGAYAN de ORO	5J - 381	Daily	0510	0635	P3,295	P2,919	P2,399
	5J - 383	Daily	0930	1055			
	5J - 385	Daily	1200	1325			
TACLOBAN	5J - 651	Daily	0610	0720	P2,718	P2,419	P1,999
	5J - 655	Daily	1210	1320			
	5J - 657	Daily	1400	1510			
ILOILO	5J - 451	Daily	0505	0605	P2,498	P2,199	P1,949
	5J - 455	Daily	0955	1055			
	5J - 457	Daily	1510	1610			
BACOLOD	5J - 473	M/T/Th/Sat	0510	0610	P2,498	P2,199	P1,949
	5J - 473	W/F/Sun	0620	0720			
	5J - 475	Daily	1000	1100			
	5J - 477	Daily	1310	1410			
	5J - 479	Daily	1630	1730			
ZAMBOANGA	5J - 851	Daily	0520	0650	P3,295	P2,639	P2,399
	5J - 563/431*	M/W/Th/Sat	0700	1000			
ROXAS	5J - 373	Daily	0530	0630	P2,279	P1,979	P1,799
DUMAGUETE	5J - 627	Daily	1340	1450	P2,608	P2,309	P1,999
KALIBO	5J - 339	Daily	0900	0950	P2,608	P2,309	P1,999

*via Cebu

ORIGIN: CEBU

DESTINATION	FLT NO.	FREQ.	ETD	ETA	ONE-WAY FARES		
					NORMAL	VALUE	2-DAY ADVANCE PURCHASE
MANILA	5J - 558	Daily	0400	0510	P2,608	P2,049	
	5J - 560	Daily	0700	0810	P2,608	P2,309	
	5J - 562	Daily	0900	1010			P1,999
	5J - 564	Daily	1100	1210			
	5J - 566	Daily	1300	1410			
	5J - 568	Daily	1500	1610			
	5J - 570	Daily	1700	1810			
	5J - 572	Daily	1900	2010			
DAVAO	5J - 593	Daily	0800	0850	P2,339	P2,039	P1,799
	5J - 597	Daily	1450	1540			
ZAMBOANGA	5J - 431	M/W/Th/Sat	0905	1000	P2,388	P2,089	P1,799
ILOILO	5J - 164	Daily	1630	1705	P1,799	P1,599	P1,499
BACOLOD	5J - 126	M/T/Th/Sat	0810	0840	P1,599	P1,399	P1,299
	5J - 128	W/F/Sun	1110	1140			

ORIGIN: DAVAO

DESTINATION	FLT NO.	FREQ.	ETD	ETA	ONE-WAY FARES		
					NORMAL	VALUE	2-DAY ADVANCE PURCHASE
MANILA	5J - 962	Daily	0720	0900	P3,307	P2,919	P2,399
	5J - 594/564*	Daily	0930	1210			
	5J - 964	Daily	1240	1420			
	5J - 966	Daily	1620	1800			
	5J - 968	Daily	1820	2000			
CEBU	5J - 594	Daily	0930	1020	P2,339	P2,039	P1,799
	5J - 598	Daily	1500	1550			
ILOILO	5J - 598/164*	Daily	1500	1705	P3,295	P2,839	P2,549
ZAMBOANGA	5J - 393	T/F/Sun	0910	1010	P2,388	P2,089	P1,799

*via Cebu

ORIGIN: CAGAYAN DE ORO

DESTINATION	FLT NO.	FREQ.	ETD	ETA	ONE-WAY FARES		
					NORMAL	VALUE	2-DAY ADVANCE PURCHASE
MANILA	5J - 382	Daily	0715	0840	P3,295	P2,919	P2,399
	5J - 384	Daily	1135	1300			
	5J - 386	Daily	1405	1530			

ORIGIN: TACLOBAN

DESTINATION	FLT NO.	FREQ.	ETD	ETA	ONE-WAY FARES		
					NORMAL	VALUE	2-DAY ADVANCE PURCHASE
MANILA	5J - 652	Daily	0800	0910	P2,718	P2,419	P1,999
	5J - 656	Daily	1400	1510			
	5J - 658	Daily	1550	1700			

ORIGIN: ILOILO

DESTINATION	FLT NO.	FREQ.	ETD	ETA	ONE-WAY FARES		
					NORMAL	VALUE	2-DAY ADVANCE PURCHASE
MANILA	5J - 456	Daily	1135	1235	P2,498	P2,199	P1,949
	5J - 458	Daily	1650	1750			
	5J - 462	Daily	1800	1900			
CEBU	5J - 161	Daily	0645	0720	P1,799	P1,599	P1,499
DAVAO	5J - 161/593*	Daily	0645	0850	P3,295	P2,839	P2,549

*via Cebu

ORIGIN: BACOLOD

DESTINATION	FLT NO.	FREQ.	ETD	ETA	ONE-WAY FARES		
					NORMAL	VALUE	2-DAY ADVANCE PURCHASE
MANILA	5J - 474	M/T/Th/Sat	0930	1030	P2,498	P2,199	P1,949
	5J - 474	W/F/Sun	0810	0910			
	5J - 476	Daily	1150	1250			
	5J - 478	Daily	1500	1600			
	5J - 480	Daily	1820	1920			
CEBU	5J - 125	M/T/Th/Sat	0700	0730	P1,599	P1,399	P1,299
	5J - 127	W/F/Sun	1230	1300			

ORIGIN: ZAMBOANGA

DESTINATION	FLT NO.	FREQ.	ETD	ETA	ONE-WAY FARES		
					NORMAL	VALUE	2-DAY ADVANCE PURCHASE
MANILA	5J - 852	Daily	1050	1220	P3,295	P2,639	P2,399
	5J - 432/562*	M/W/Th/Sat	0730	1010			
CEBU	5J - 432	M/W/Th/Sat	0730	0825	P2,388	P2,089	P1,799
DAVAO	5J - 394	T/F/Sun	0730	0830	P2,388	P2,089	P1,799

*via Cebu

ORIGIN: ROXAS

DESTINATION	FLT NO.	FREQ.	ETD	ETA	ONE-WAY FARES		
					NORMAL	VALUE	2-DAY ADVANCE PURCHASE
MANILA	5J - 374	Daily	0710	0810	P2,279	P1,979	P1,799

ORIGIN: DUMAGUETE

DESTINATION	FLT NO.	FREQ.	ETD	ETA	ONE-WAY FARES		
					NORMAL	VALUE	2-DAY ADVANCE PURCHASE
MANILA	5J - 628	Daily	1530	1640	P2,608	P2,309	P1,999

ORIGIN: KALIBO

DESTINATION	FLT NO.	FREQ.	ETD	ETA	ONE-WAY FARES		
					NORMAL	VALUE	2-DAY ADVANCE PURCHASE
MANILA	5J - 340	Daily	1030	1120	P2,608	P2,309	P1,999

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SILVER Story (10) surges ahead at the top of the stretch. VALHANDUMON

Silver Story scores sweep

But recent loss to Sonata taints colt's feat

By Edwin Villanueva

SILVER Story won the Horseman's Cup to sweep the 2001 Triple Crown series yesterday at the San Lazaro Hippodrome.

Weaved through heavy traffic in the early going, Silver Story pulled ahead at the top of the stretch en route to a four-length victory in the 2,045-meter race ran on a muddy track.

The grey galloper thus became only the eighth horse to score a three-leg victory in the event.

But the feat wasn't in any way sweet in the eyes of racing fans who were still smarting from the colt's unbelievable loss in a winners' division race at Santa Ana last week.

His setback to Sonata tainted an otherwise sterling campaign going into the last leg of the series which he won the hard way yesterday.

Jonathan Hernandez goaded him from as far as eighth place off the front end and got into strong contention only at the far turn behind Kitty Hawk, Sky Hawk and Flaming Bullet.

Running four wide, Silver Story blew ahead at the home turn despite a slight interference against Sky Hawk, a stablemate of Sonata. Sky Hawk's backers were hoping for at least a protest to be filed but they were frustrated.

Silver Story, who negotiated the race in 2:10 flat (25-25-26.5.25-28), pocketed P1 million to up his career earnings past P7 million. It was his 17th win in 25 starts so far.

Longshot District Three rallied from dead last to place second worth P375,000, while Ilocandia Slew grabbed third spot for P208,500. Sky Hawk, runner-up in both the Cojuangco and Ongpin Cups, faded to fourth and settled for P83,500.

Completing the order of finish were Lyonnais, Staunch Ally, Kitty Hawk, Hammerhead, Flaming Bullet, Hacker, El Duque and Gutmoore.

The other Triple Crown champions were Fair and Square (1981), Skywalker (1983), Time Master (1987), Magic Showtime (1988), Sun Dancer (1989), Strong Material (1996) and Real Top (1998).

Extended Wimbies

(Since World War I)

1919 - Extended to Tuesday July 8 due to rain.
1922 - Extended to Wednesday July 12 due to rain on all days.
1925 - Extended to Monday July 6 to allow French players Jean Borotra and Rene Lacoste to rest following their singles final.
1927 - Extended to Tuesday July 5 due to rain.
1930 - Extended to Monday July 7 to allow American Wilmer Allison, runner up in the singles, to rest before the doubles final.
1963 - Extended to Monday July 8 due to rain on Saturday July 6.
1972 - Extended to Sunday July 9 due to rain on Saturday July 8.
1973 - Extended to Sunday July 8 due to rain on Friday July 6.
1982 - Extended to Monday July 5 due to rain to play boys doubles final.
1988 - Extended to Monday July 4 due to rain on Sunday July 3.
1989 - Extended to Monday July 10 due to rain on July 7-9.
1991 - Extended to Sunday June 30 due to rain during the first week.
1992 - Extended to Monday July 6 due to rain during the second week.
1996 - Extended to Monday July 8 due to rain during the second week.
1997 - Extended to Sunday June 29 due to rain during the first week.
2000 - Extended to Monday July 10 due to rain.
2001 - Extended to Monday July 9 due to rain on Friday and Saturday, July 6-7.

AP

Pak leads field by 4

SYLVANIA, Ohio—When South Korea's Se Ri Pak uses the word "perfect" to describe her swing, that can only be bad news for her rivals.

"I'm happy with the way I'm hitting the ball. Everything's pretty much perfect," Pak said Saturday after repelling several challenges while doubling her lead to four strokes through three rounds of the Jamie Farr Kroger Classic.

Meg Mallon and Kris Tschetter threatened Pak's lead, but she still shot a 2-under-par 69 to get to 12-under 201.

It speaks volumes about Pak when she is at the top of her game that she wasn't even aware she was being challenged.

"I didn't see much of the scoreboards today," she said.

In her four years on tour, Pak has held or shared the lead heading into the final round in eight tournaments. She has lost just once: the 2000 Giant Eagle LPGA Classic.

Pak is pursuing her third victory of the year and her third Farr win in the last four years. She is 52-under par in her 15 competitive rounds at Highland Meadows Golf Club, with a third-place finish last year preceded by wins in 1998 and 1999.

Instead of sitting back and protecting her lead in the final round, she spoke as if she might try to double it again.

"I still have to be aggressive," she said. *AP*

MEN'S FINAL

It's Ivanisevic vs Rafter

LONDON—Goran Ivanisevic of Croatia shattered Tim Henman's Wimbledon dream with a come-from-behind 7-5, 6-7 (6/8), 0-6, 7-6 (7/5) 6-3 win in a rain-ruined men's singles semi-final on Sunday.

In the rescheduled title-match on Monday, the 29-year-old Ivanisevic will play against third-seeded Pat Rafter of Australia.

The Croatian is the first wildcard ever to make it through to a final of a Grand Slam event. It will be his fourth final here after three previous losses.

Persistent rain

The win took Ivanisevic three hours and three minutes , but it was spread over a nerve-wracking three days because of persistent rain. The first serve was banged down by Ivanisevic on Friday afternoon and Henman's final return floated wide 44 hours later on Sunday afternoon.

Ivanisevic fell to his knees and stretched out on to his back and raised his arms aloft as the pressure-boiler came to an end.

"Its unbelievable," he said. "It's destiny, God wanted me to win. Tomorrow will be the biggest day of my life. I can't lose another final. It would kill me."

The second semi-final had been cruelly put on the backburner by rain for a first time late Friday with sixth-seeded Henman poised to win, two sets to one up and leading 2-1 in the fourth with the Croatian serving at 40-30.

The British number one had been on a magnificent roll at the time having won the third set 6-0 in under 15 minutes and with Ivanisevic unravelling.

The rain held up the start of proceedings again Saturday for four-and-a-half hours with the men's semi scheduled on the Centre Court prior to the women's singles final between Venus Williams and Justine Henin.

It eventually got underway in the late afternoon as the rain relented and Ivanisevic grabbed his chance to level the set scores at 2-2.

He was leading 3-2 in the decider with Henman 30-15 on his serve when the covers were brought on again and play was abandoned.

After late night consultations with both players, tournament referee Alan Mills said the final would be rescheduled for Monday, the first time that had happened since Stefan Edberg beat Boris Becker in four sets in 1988.

When the marathon finally resumed in cool, damp conditions Sunday, Henman held his serve to level at 3-3.

The British player got to 0-30 in the next game, but Ivanisevic blasted down four big serves to take a 4-3 lead.

And in the next game the Croatian made the vital break, slamming back a big forehand which Henman could only tip into the net.

Serving for the match, Ivanisevic sent down two double faults but still clinched a berth in the final on his third match point, Henman's return floating wide.

"I feel sorry for him. This was the biggest match of his career but also for me," said the Croatian.

Ivanisevic now stands just one match away from sealing one of the greatest comebacks in tennis history.

Struggling for any kind of a win over the last two years and wracked by injuries, his ranking had slumped into the three figures and the general feeling was that he was a spent force.

But the Wimbledon organizers took sympathy on the giant from Split and gave him a wildcard into the championships.

Transformation

The transformation was immediate as Ivanisevic started to unleash his howitzer services as in the good old days and opponents cowered.

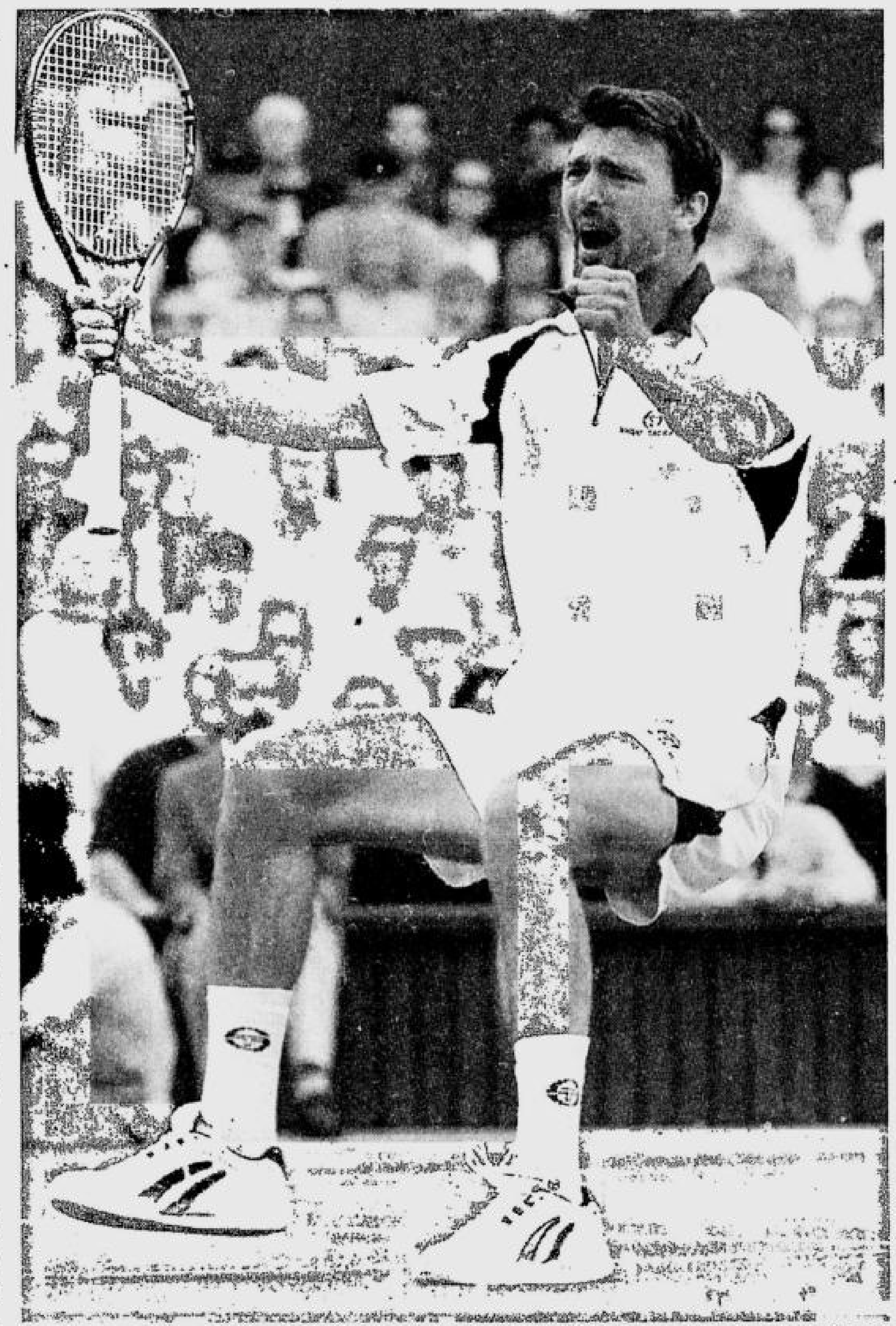
A prime-time Centre Court win over American prodigy Andy Roddick in the third round pumped him up further and then he put a first spoke in the British wheel by crushing Greg Rusedski in the last 16.

Fourth seed Marat Safin followed in the quarterfinals and then he bit the British hand that fed him with the wildcard by trouncing Henman for a place in the final.

For Henman it was the bitterest of pills to swallow as he had appeared to be storming into the finals before the London rain got in his way.

He twice got to within two points of becoming the first British player to reach the final since Bunny Austin in 1938. In the final he was hoping to emulate Fred Perry, the last British winner in 1936.

It was the third time he had fallen at the semi-final stage after losses to Pete Sampras in 1998 and 1999, and at 26 he may never get a better chance. *AFP*


IVANISEVIC celebrates win over Henman. REUTERS

Clinton brightens gloomy day

WIMBLEDON, England—He's no John McEnroe, but former President Bill Clinton knows his tennis.

Bone-dry and dressed in a blue suit and pink tie, Clinton brightened an afternoon darkened by drizzle with a 10-minute British Broadcasting Corporation interview Saturday from the Royal Box on Centre Court at Wimbledon.

Rainy day entertainment is as much a part of Wimbledon and strawberries and cream. A few years ago, the All England Club used pop star Cliff Richard - backed by the singing of Martina Navratilova and other tennis stars - to keep rain-soaked fans entertained. *AP*

Love ahead; Tiger lurking

LEMONT, Illinois—After flirting with birdies all over the front nine, something clicked when Davis Love III made the turn. Maybe he felt Scott Hoch, Phil Mickelson and Tiger Woods closing in on him.

Love birdied the first three holes of the back nine Saturday and went on to shoot a 3-under-par 69, giving him a one-stroke lead after the third round of the Western Open. He's at 14-under 202 for the tournament.

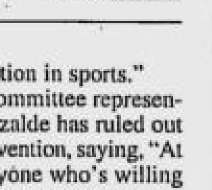
But Love can't get too comfortable. Hoch is at 203 after making birdies on the final four holes for a 66. Mickelson (67) birdied three of his last four holes and is five strokes back.

And Woods finally broke out of his "slump" with a flurry of birdies on the back nine, getting within seven strokes with a 68. Woods could have been even closer, after making an eagle and two birdies on the front nine. But he gave all the strokes back with two double-bogeys. *AP*

Why can't we all work together?

CLEAN LIVING

Manolo R. Iñigo



THE PHILIPPINES faces the gloom prospect of taking part in the Southeast Asian Games on Sept. 8-17 in Kuala Lumpur without a basketball team for the first time since 1959. This is an aftermath of the suspension imposed by Fiba (International Basketball Federation) on the strife-torn Basketball Association of the Philippines for having two separate groups running its affairs.

Because the country may not meet the July 15 deadline set by the SEA Games organizers for the submission of entries, the warring camps of Lito Puyat and Tiny Literal should—for the sake of the country and the Filipino youth—immediately come to terms no matter how unlikely at this point. As genuine sportsmen, they should sit down and talk and listen to suggestions coming from all quarters, including those from well-meaning people like business magnate Manny Pangilinan and Philippine Sports Commission chair Carlos Tuason.

For example, Tuason said he was brokering to resolve the BAP conflict "for the good and interest of the country whose image in the foreign scene continues to suffer even without this conflict." Tuason's gesture to help settle the endless feud should not be construed, much less misinterpreted, by Lito Puyat and his followers led by Moying Martelino as government intervention in sports."

Even International Olympic Committee representative to the Philippines Frank Elizalde has ruled out Tuason's offer as government intervention, saying, "At this point, we should welcome anyone who's willing to get involved and find a solution to the problem."

However, Elizalde dismissed Philippine Olympic Committee president Celso Dayrit as a mediator because the POC has ruled on the issue (by recognizing Puyat's group), stressing that "the POC has taken sides."

In connection with the leadership struggle, a meeting has been scheduled today between the camps of Puyat and Literal and Pangilinan. This meeting is aimed chiefly at saving the unsettling situation which may yet lead Fiba to lift its suspension on the BAP and allow the highly favored defending champion Philippine basketball team to compete in the coming SEA Games.

One solution to be taken up today is for Pangilinan, the PLDT boss and Mobiline team owner, to assume the position of BAP officer-in-charge until the SEA Games in September after which the BAP election will be held. However, if this proposal is still unacceptable, Pangilinan has offered to create a five-man steering committee composed of himself, an aide, two from Literal's group and one from Puyat.

But since nothing is official yet at press time, the door is still open to other suggestions. So if anybody has a better idea to end this confusion, then let's hear it now.

"This conflict between the two groups in the BAP has gotten too far that it has already caused an embarrassment to the Philippine government," Tuason said in despair. And if I may add, "Why can't we all work together? Aren't we Filipinos before we're anything else?"

* * *

For inquiries, call fax/phone (044) 933-1214 or EasyCall 141-267284.

AUG. 28, 30

Bates derby slated

FAST-PACED action returns at Mandaluyong Coliseum on Aug. 28 and 30 (Tuesday and Thursday) when the annual RLB 7-Stag Derby, a blockbuster promotion of veteran cocker-breeder Richard L. Bates gets going.

Stags banded by Pagba, Ucap, Migba, NGBA and GF-BAN will also be accepted in the event sponsored by Sagupaan Super Feeds and washout Shampoo.

For individual farm-to-farm screening, interested parties may contact Bates at 0916-3156991, (046)-4140750 (Cavite) or 824-0237 (Manila).

Farm-to-farm screening starts on Aug.1. Weight limits are from 1.7 kg to 2.2 kg. For other inquiries, please contact Mandaluyong Coliseum at 534-4110, 531-4003, 531-4005 and 535-2341 (new number).

Meanwhile, Mandaluyong Coliseum will also present the following stagfest: 6-Stag Sept. 4 and 6 (Ramon Mencenares and Muroy Dolorico), 1st Ucap 7-Stag Sept. 11 and 13 (Butch Macasaet and Joey delos Santos), 5-Stag Sept. 15 (Vic Yu), 2nd Ucap 7-Stag Sept. 18 and 20 (Pol Estellado and Boyboy Roa), 3rd Ucap 7-Stag Sept 25 and 27 (Benjie and Tony Lasala), 4th Ucap 7-Stag Oct. 2 and 4 (Raymond Velayo);

5th Ucap 7-Stag Oct. 9 and 11 (Biboy Enriquez), 4-Stag Oct. 13 (Tiago, Ariel and Rey), 6th Ucap 7-Stag Oct. 16 and 18 (Patrick Antonio and Ram Lopez), 7th Ucap 7-Stag Oct. 23 and 25 (Bacolod Group) and 7-Stag Nov. 6 and 8 (LGBA).

Pasay anniversary tilt on tap

PASAY City Cockpit's 14th Anniversary 5-Cock Derby will start at exactly 10 a.m. on July 19 featuring the elimination round. The finals is on July 21.

This is to accommodate the big number of participants which is expected to reach to 150, PCC pit managers Oscar Gonzalez, Eric dela Rosa and Butchoy Olano announced yesterday.

Likewise, submission of entries is strictly one day before derby, from 7 a.m. to 9 p.m. Prospective participants may contact 816-6750, 843-1890 and 843-1746.

At least P1 million in guaranteed prize is at stake while entry fee is P15,000. The champion handler and gaffer gets P100,000 and P50,000 respectively.

Participants will be given an anniversary gift (one imported VCD player worth P3,000) courtesy of the Pasay Cockpit management. The champions will get an additional 21-inch color TV while runners-up receive a CD player double cassette recorder each.

Meanwhile, a special 4-cock event will be staged on Friday, July 13 hosted by Toto Mancenares. Entry fee is P10,000 and cash prize is P300,000.

RP boxer settles for silver

BANGKOK—Juanito Magliquian lost to Thailand's Suban Phanooan Saturday night as Team Caltex Philippines settled for a lone silver medal at the close of the 24th King's Cup International Amateur Boxing Championships here. Magliquian, the reigning SEA Game pinweight champion but campaigning in the heavier light flyweight class in this event, absorbed a 20-2 drubbing from the Thai.

SPORTS

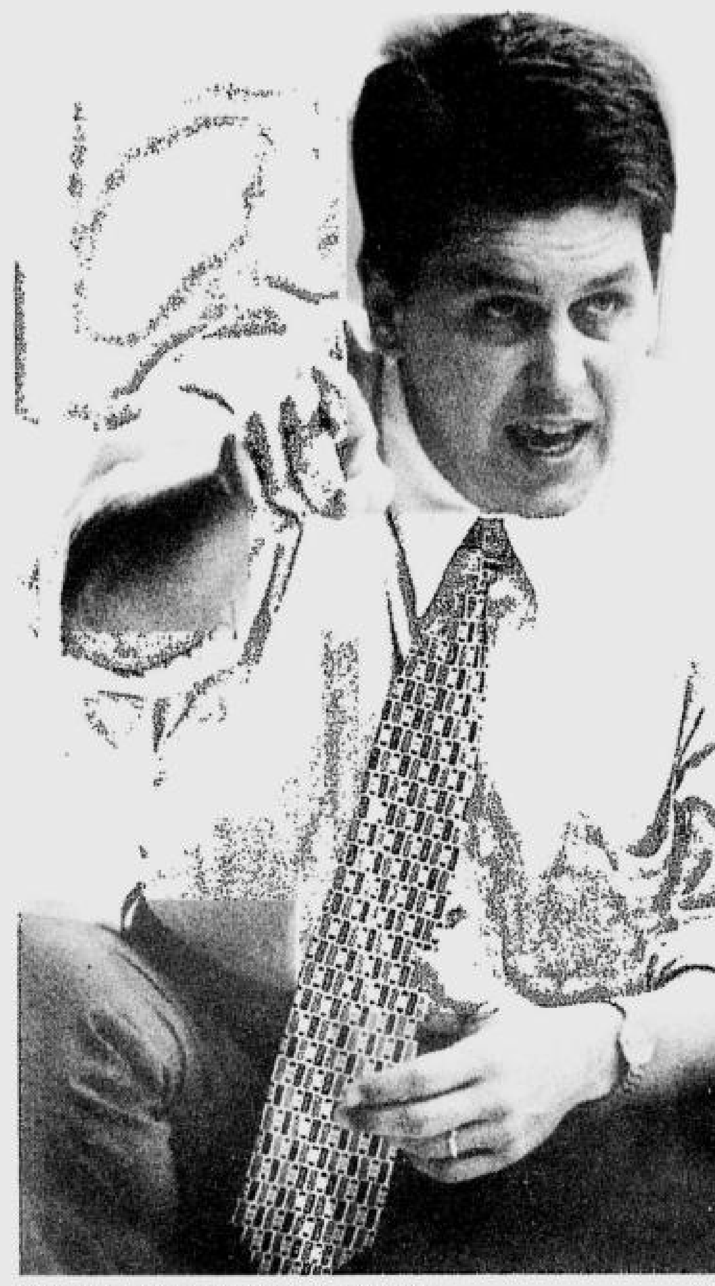
AL S. MENDOZA, Editor ▨ EDWIN M. VILLANUEVA, Assistant Editor

Armstrong 3rd in Tour prologue

DUNKIRK, France—Lance Armstrong began his bid for a third consecutive Tour de France title wearing the leader's yellow jersey, but by the end of Saturday's prologue had conceded it to Frenchman Christophe Moreau. Armstrong placed third in the race-opening individual time-trial through the streets of this northeastern port city, finishing four seconds off the pace. *AP*

PBA UPSET

Shell frustrates Alaska



CONE: "I don't know what's wrong." FILE PHOTO

BY MARC ANTHONY REYES

GAMES WEDNESDAY (Philsports)
5:15 p.m. — Purefoods vs Tanduay
6:30 p.m. — San Miguel vs Ginebra

SHELL'S humiliating losing streak ended last night, while Alaska Milk's tailspin kept on going.

Though the Turbochargers' 83-66 shocker over the Aces was still not enough to move them out of the doldrums, it gave them some measure of pride in the PBA Commissioner's Cup at the Araneta Coliseum.

Shell bounced back from a six-game losing skid to post only its second win in eight games and grab a slim hope of making the next round—provided other teams in the low rungs lose all of their remaining games.

And while it hardly mattered for the Turbochargers, the loss caused a lot of damage for the Aces, who stormed the league with a 4-0 start only to lose their next four outings.

The Aces are now in danger of missing the Final Four which they could have easily made ahead of everybody else before plunging in a disturbing losing streak.

"I don't know what's wrong," said Alaska coach Tim Cone. "I wish we could point our finger to one person but everybody just struggled.

"We were shooting when we should be passing and passing when we should be shooting," he added.

What made things worse for them was the fact that the Turbochargers gamely converted their 19 turnovers to 18 big points on the other end of the floor in establishing double-digit lead that went as much as 70-49.

"We just kept on spiraling downward," said Cone, who admitted that their lost to Tanduay (the first of four losses) affected the team's morale. "Even our grandmothers could beat us at this point."

That was an exaggeration, of course, but it precisely mirrored how the Aces lost fire to yield the game as early as in the second quarter when they committed more turnovers.

Tremaine Wingfield finished with 30 points and 11 rebounds for Shell and got ample help from locals led by Mike Hrabak and Gerry Esplana.

Batang Red Bull capitalized on Sta. Lucia Realty's fourth quarter collapse to post a 95-88 victory in the second game and extend its winning run to three for a 5-2 record. The Thunder thus tied leaders San Miguel and Purefoods and snapped the three-game winnnig streak of the Realtors who fell to 4-4.

The scores:

SHELL 83—Wingfield 30, Hrabak 17, Esplana 10, Marzan 8, Lim 5, Jackson 5, Singson 4, Wainwright 4, Del Rosario 0, Dualan 0, Cheng 0, Telan 0.

ALASKA 66—Duremdes 23, Badgett 16, Peek 10, Evans 7, Ticzon 3, Santos 2, Allado 2, Ordonio 2, Gahol 1, Wallkvist 0, Reyes 0.

Quarters: 16-15, 38-23, 59-47, 83-66.

Knights, Gems shine

BY ROY LUARCA

Games Wednesday (Cebu City Coliseum)
3:00 p.m.—Socsargen vs Davao
5:30 p.m.—Nueva Ecija vs Cebu

THE ANDOK'S San Juan Knights' decision to use Rafi Reavis paid off last night.

Reavis, ignoring a hurting back that sidelined him for three games, returned and did a splendid job as the Knights subdued the Negros Slashers, 84-81, in the Metropolitan Basketball Association First Phase at the San Juan Gym.

The 6-foot-8 reedy center delivered 22 points and grabbed 20 rebounds to share best player of the game honors with high flyer Bruce Dacia, who pushed the Knights to a 12-point spread in the pivotal third quarter.

Dacia poured all but two of his 17 points in the second half as the Knights caught up with their victims on top at 7-3.

Back-to-back baskets by John Ferriols enabled the Slashers to stay within sight, but Johnedel Cardel's probable game-tying three-pointer went off-line as the final buzzer sounded.

Earlier, Matthew Mitchell outplayed former tormentor Jeffrey Flowers as the Cebuana Lhuillier Gems exacted revenge over the FedEx Laguna Lakers, 116-104, at the Cebu City Coliseum.

Attacking the shaded lane and hitting the open man, Mitchell wound up with 30 points, 14 rebounds, 8 assists, 5 blocks and 4 steals in a virtuoso performance that lifted the Gems to their sixth win in nine starts.

More important, the Gems snapped a two-game skid, including a 100-95 defeat to the Lakers in Sta. Cruz, Laguna, last Wednesday.

The Lakers dropped to 3-4 as Flowers, the league's leading scorer and rebounder, was held to just 15 points and 11 rebounds by the tight defending Gems.

With Homer Se hitting his perimeter jumpers and Mitchell piercing the middle, the Gems led by as many as 24 points, 93-69, early in the fourth quarter.

The scores

CEBU 116—Mitchell 30, Se 18, Padilla 17, Solis 16, Naron 13, Taguines 8, Yu 5, Montalbo 4, Lura 3, Mela 2, Sayon 0, Sasan 0.

LAGUNA 104—Clay 32, Simon 23, Flowers 15, Melencio 6, Lopez 6, Nicdao 5, Barbosa 5, Domingo 4, Garcia 2, Regidor 2, Mendiola 2.

Quarters: 28-27, 66-53, 88-67, 116-104.

UAAP: Tamaraws gain more confidence

ALMOST a year after placing second to De La Salle University, the Far Eastern University Tamaraws are now more confident they can make it all the way this time.

"My boys believe that we can go all the way this year," said coach Coy Banal during a lull in the Tamaraws scrimmage.

So this season, expect the Tamaraws to translate their confidence into action. They even have a slogan they adopted this year: "Overwork to overachieve."

And FEU is progressing as planned. The team may have lost Edwin Bacani and Celino Cruz, two vital cogs in last year's shortened run. But Banal has filled up the slots.

From the Philippine School of Business and Arts where he once coached, Banal plucked 5-11 Dennis Miranda and 6-4 Mark Isip.

Miranda, a former member of the national youth team, is expected to start immediately for FEU and fill the void left by Cruz. Isip is a quality contributor, a big wingman who can post, shoot and drive to the hoop and slam the ball home.

Banal also took in 6-8 Don Yabut, an Isabela native who also played for PSBA. But Yabut is expected to develop slowly and play behind FEU's established big men.

Six-foot-seven Rysal Castro, Miko Roldan, Michael Tolentino, Gerard Jones and Dwight Chavez will form the core of the team.

Mets halt Yankees

NEW YORK—Mike Piazza's two-out single off Mariano Rivera in the 10th inning broke a scoreless tie and the Mets beat the Yankees 3-0 Saturday to end the World Series champions' nine-game winning streak.

After Piazza's hit, Timo Perez and Todd Zeile followed with RBI singles off Rivera (2-4). *AP*

Results:

N.Y. Mets 3, N.Y. Yankees 0, 10 innings; Cleveland 7, St. Louis 6, 10 innings; Toronto 9, Montreal 8, 11 innings; Los Angeles 2, Seattle 1; Milwaukee 13, San Francisco 3; Tampa Bay 4, Florida 3; Boston 3, Atlanta 1; Chicago Cubs 10, Detroit 6; Minnesota 7, Cincinnati 6; Baltimore 4, Philadelphia 3; Chicago White Sox 4, Pittsburgh 1; Anaheim 10, Colorado 3; Houston 10, Kansas City 8; Texas 4, San Diego 3; Oakland 5, Arizona 1. *AP*

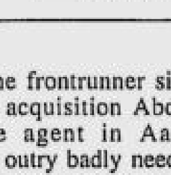
SPORTS ON TV

COMPILED BY LORENZO MANGUIAT

GOLF: PGA Advil Western Open, First Round at 9 a.m. (r), Final Round at 10:30 p.m. on Star Sports
LPGA Jamie Farr Kroger Classic, Final Round at 8 p.m. (r) on ESPN
Golfglobe 2001 at 11:30 a.m. (r) on Star Sports
TENNIS: Wimbledon—Day 13 Highlights at 8 a.m. (r – 7 p.m.), Day 13—Men's Singles Final and Ladies Doubles Final at 12 noon (r) on Star Sports
CYCLING: 2001 Tour De France Highlights Stage #1 at 1:30 p.m. (r–7:30 p.m.) on ESPN
BADMINTON: Sudirman Cup 2001 Highlights, Semifinals at 2 p.m. (r) on ESPN
BASEBALL: Sunday Night Baseball at 8 a.m. on ESPN
HORSE RACING: Racehorse Digest at 12 noon (r) on ESPN

Payton on trading block

NBA NOTES



Henry Liao

NOW IT can be told.

The Seattle SuperSonics were actively exploring trades involving All-Star guard Gary Payton on Draft Day but eventually were unable to pull the trigger.

Seattle reportedly was close to trading the 6-4 Payton to the Memphis Grizzlies' former star forward Shareef Abdur-Rahim before the Grizzlies opted to deal with the Atlanta Hawks instead. The trade fell through when the Grizzlies decided to go younger with their trade and Draft Day approach.

The Sonics placed Payton on the trading block after he sought a two-year contract extension that would earn him an additional $30 million, claiming he wanted an extension "as a reward for the way I have played in Seattle."

Payton, who turns 33 on July 23, has been in Emerald City since joining the NBA in 1990-91. Though he along with Shawn Kemp (now with Portland) helped the Sonics to the NBA Finals in 1996, the club has failed to qualify for the playoffs two of the last three years.

Payton still has two years remaining on his current seven-year $86-milion deal with the Sonics. Under a new ownership (the group is headed by the Starbucks coffee chain), the rebuilding Sonics are unwilling to shell out more money to Payton when the franchise lost $20 million last season and the heavy dollar-for-dollar luxury tax takes effect next campaign.

Notwithstanding the aborted deal between the Sonics and Grizzlies, trade talks involving Payton continue.

Atlanta, Indiana and Miami remain prime targets for Payton to land. Seattle is in dire need of some quality big men and those teams have something to offer.

The Hawks may be the frontrunner since Payton and new Atlanta acquisition Abdur-Rahim share the same agent in Aaron goodwin. The Peach City outry badly needs a bonafide point guard after moving Jason Terry to the two-position early during the 2000-01 wars with some degree of success.

Yet the Sonics may be in a bind to find a suitable trade for Payton, who earned third-team All-NBA honors last season. The Oregon State alum has publicly declared he won't play for a team in the Eastern Conference and will play for only four teams in the West with championship-contending status at that.

Payton topped the Sonics in scoring (23.1 ppg, 13th in the NBA), assists (8.1 apg, fifth in the league) and steals (1.61 apg, 14th in the NBA) last season while playing 41.1 minutes per game. "The Glove," as Payton is fondly billed for his outstanding defensive skills, made the NBA All-Defensive First Team for the eighth consecutive year, joining Michael Jordan (nine first-team selections), Bobby Jones (eight) and Scottie Pippen (eight) as the only players in the league annals to be named to the top defensive unit eight times or more.

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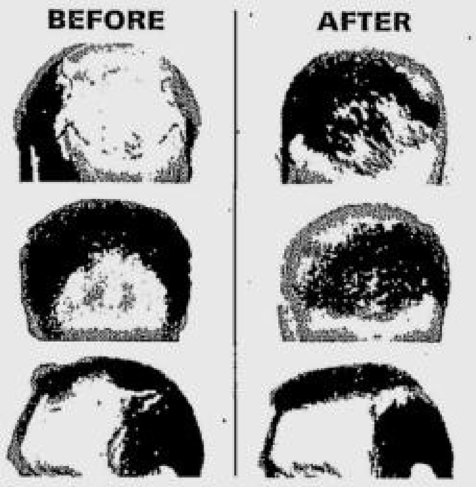

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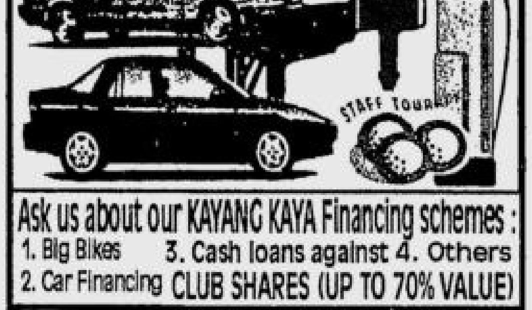

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ROTC
BUWAGIN

SECURITY measures do not prevent University of the Philippines cadets from staging a rally at the ROTC headquarters.
EDWIN BACASMAS

By Christian V. Esguerra

FOR the first time in three weeks, schools foiled another attempt by hundreds of cadets to stage a walkout as part of their clamor for the abolition of the Reserve Officers Training Corps.

Strict security and the deployment of additional security officers and ROTC military police kept protesters at bay yesterday in many colleges and universities in Metro Manila.

Cadets at the University of Santo Tomas failed to leave the training field due to the heightened

ROTC WALKOUT/ A24

Payatas children send out ships of hope to President

By Christian V. Esguerra

"SANA po tulungan ninyo po ako na makatapos sa pag-aaral ko hanggang kolehiyo kasi po ang nagpapaaral po sa akin ay ang lola ko lamang at saka sana po mabigyan ng katarungan ang Payatas tragedy."

Jayson Vann Banogon, 10, wrote this on a piece of paper that was then folded into a boat which he sent sailing in the Pasig River in Manila yesterday morning.

Banogon hopes the boat would reach Malacañang so President Macapagal-

PAYATAS/ A24

SURESTEP
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THE NO-HOLES BOARD ON YOUR STAREX
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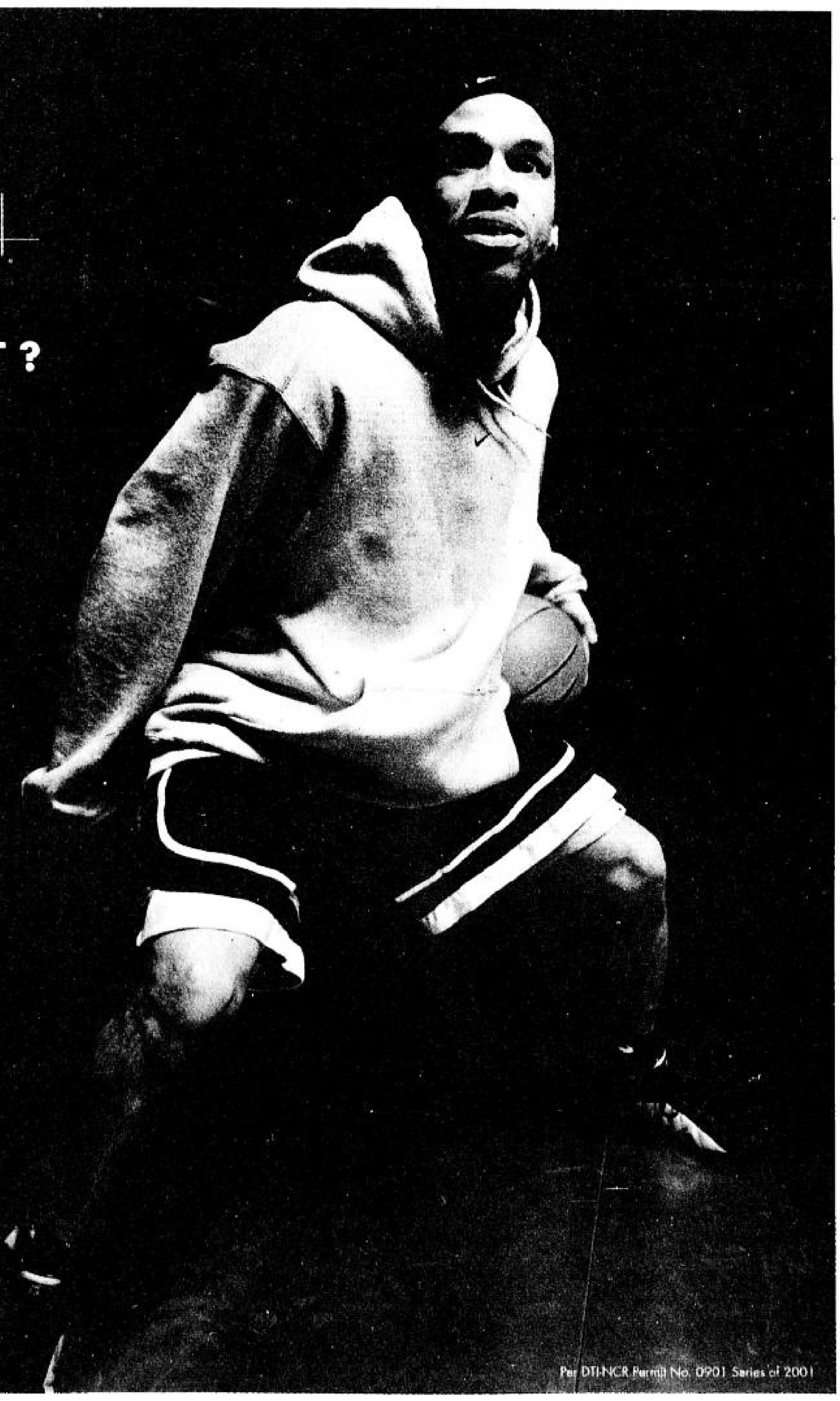
Wazzzzup?

8th day CAFE ST. FRANCIS SQ. ORTIGAS CTR.	M POWER (JULY 9, MONDAY)	FREESTYLE JULY 10/634.7696
BUMA 9595 KAMAGONG ST. MAKATI	CROSSOVER	RETROSPECT JULY 11/896.1939
Cowboy GRILL BF/ ALMANZA, LAS PIÑAS	HOMOSAPIENS PUZZLES	NO ENTRANCE FEE ☎801.7644
Cowboy GRILL 1190 ARQUEZA ST. MARINI	MUSIC CIRCUIT FAT 16/ARTENSION	NO ENTRANCE FEE 525.1474/525.4269
Cowboy GRILL 411 REMEDIOS ST., MALATE	MR. ROXY HERZ	NO ENTRANCE FEE ☎521.8143
Cowboy GRILL NOVALICHES Q.C.	KNIGHTS J BROTHERS	NO ENTRANCE FEE ☎936.9757
DOWNTOWN Music Bar & Restaurant	PORK CHOP DUO SHARMAINE SANTIAGO	P 250 COVER CHARGE ☎373.3333
KAMPO 2086 #47 WEST AVENUE Q.C.	ARPIE & D' MULTIVITAMINS L.O.C/MUZIK JIVE	P 200 CONSUMABLE 373.5110/373.7181
EXAMINER'S LITE n' LIVE #52 EXAMINER ST., Q.C.	GROOVE	P 150 CONSUMABLE 373.2221/373.7183
music WAREHOUSE INFRONT OF CENTRAL MARKET	MODAL MAGIC ENTITY	FREE ENTRANCE 735.1280/735.1405
PADI'S POINT MINDAVE MINDANAO AVE. COR. CONG'L, Q.C.	FREEVERSE LILIAN/JUMPSTART	SOUTHBORDER JULY 15/453.0080
TIA MARIA'S REMEDIOS COR. CAROLINA	X-POZ D' SAUCE	NO ENTRANCE FEE ☎522.0429
TROPICAL FOREST Cafe-Grill-Restaurant TM KALAW, LUNETA, MANILA	VERSATILE	HHR-DRINK ALL U CAN P165/5-8PM
OTHER PLACES		
Jer's II REAL CALAMBA, LAGUNA	SOUL SPREE	NO ENTRANCE FEE ☎(0919)278.6391
Partyplace SAN FERNANDO, PAMPANGA	YINYANG	THE DAWN JULY 28, SATURDAY

MONDAY, JULY 09 912-8983



FREESTYLE

YOU REALLY ALL THAT?

The Contest :

If you've seen the NIKE "Freestyle" Music Video then you know you just have to give it up, get your groove on, bounce to the beat, and bust a move yourself to the rhythm of those funky dribbles. Well then this is your lucky day because NIKE is giving you a chance to catch the vibe, steal the spotlight, and show off your maddest freestylin', rim-rockin', ball-handlin' skills at the NIKE "Freestyle Contest".

The Prizes:

The top dawgs with the hottest freestylin' moves get to take home a load of NIKE goodies. Third placers run away with P15,000 worth of NIKE products, while second placers chalk up a cool P30,000 worth of NIKE products and a NIKE Ambient Frozen Watch each. The smoothest of the smooth get a whopping P50,000 worth of NIKE products, a NIKE Triax 50 watch, a NIKE Basketball, and a spanking NIKE MP3 player EACH!

The Lowdown:

Get on down to NIKE PARK or NIKE STADIUM stores and register your crew, limited to 3-5 freestylers, ages 18 years old and above. Your b-ball moves should be 2-3 minutes long and in-synch with the NIKE "Freestyle" soundtrack, which will be given upon registration. Applicants must present proof of purchase worth at least P500 of NIKE gear from NIKE PARK or NIKE STADIUM or must pay a registration fee of P100 each. Registration starts on July 9 and ends on July 15. Auditions will be from July 22 to July 27 at 2pm-8pm at Strike Zone Bldg., Roxas Blvd. corner E. Rodriguez St., Pasay City, tel. nos. 524-1282 to 83 (look for Met Vicencio). The top 10 teams selected in the auditions, based on ball handling skills, rhythm and coordination, originality, presentation skills and audience impact will sport NIKE products and will compete for the grand prizes during the National Finals of the NIKE 3 on 3 at SM Megamall on August 18, 2001.

Check out the NIKE "Freestyle" music video on MYX.
Log on to www.nikebasketball.com for more freestylin' action.

*Employees of NIKE Philippines, Inc. and participating outlets, including their relatives up to second degree of consanguinity or affinity, are disqualified from joining the contest. Prizes will be awarded after the contest. 20% tax for prizes exceeding P10,000 will be covered by NIKE Philippines, Inc. A DTI Representative will be present during the finals to oversee the contest.

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Amputee beaten to death with gun

By Philip C. Tubeza

AMPUTEE Macario Gonzales suffered a cruel death after his neighbor in Quezon City beat him up with a shotgun.

Gonzales, of No. 81 Sitio Gabriel, also in Barangay Batasan Hills, Quezon City, died on Friday, three days after his neighbor Joey A. Gabriel bludgeoned him with a shotgun, said investigator SPO1 Rodrigo Barrameda, of the Central Police District-Criminal Investigation Unit.

Police said the beating happened after Gonzales allegedly stabbed one of Gabriel's relatives.

But Gabriel's cruelty led two of his relatives to become witnesses in the killing, police said.

They told police they were taken aback at the killing of Gonzales, who had lost his legs in a car accident.

Police arrested Gabriel while he was trying to escape after learning that Gonzales had died on Friday.

The suspect's relative, Enrique Gabriel, told police that he saw the suspect beating up Gonzales inside the victim's home about 12 noon of July 3.

Enrique said the suspect hurriedly left when he saw him, leaving Gonzales in pain.

But the fight did not end there. Gabriel returned to Gonzales' house about 2 p.m. the same day with an improvised shotgun, police said.

With the shotgun, Gabriel beat up Gonzales who was still recovering from the blows he received earlier, police said.

Another relative of the suspect, Teodora Yabut Gabriel, saw the beating and tried to stop Gabriel, police said. She told police that the suspect continued to beat Gonzales until he lost consciousness.

Gabriel fled after the beating, police said.

Gonzales' neighbors tried to save him, but he died in his house about 1 a.m. on Friday.

After hearing about Gonzales' death, Gabriel tried to escape about 9 a.m. on Friday.

But barangay security official Felipe Roca arrested Gonzales as he was about to leave his home with his shotgun, police said.

Korean attacks cop, slashes wrist

By TJ Burgonio

IN AN apparent attempt to delay his extradition over the weekend, Korean fugitive Yun Jang Lee, 41, attacked a police officer escorting him to his plane, then slashed his wrist later while he was handcuffed and in a straightjacket.

But yesterday, Yun, escorted by two Korean policemen who flew in earlier, was finally loaded into a Korean Air flight for Seoul after immigration and police officers injected him with tranquilizers.

Yun was unconscious but still handcuffed when he was laid on a stretcher and then lifted to the rear door of the plane by a food catering van.

A suspected gun-for-hire who is wanted for the 1997 murder of two persons in South Korea, Yun flew into a rage while being deported on Saturday afternoon, said airport immigration authorities.

The stocky, martial arts expert tore apart his handcuff while Insp. Winnie Quidato was escorting him to his plane.

Then, he repeatedly hit Quidato in the head with the handcuff, said immigration officer Max So.

A group of immigration and police officers subdued Yun before he could inflict more injuries on his escort.

So said Yun was brought down from the plane and transferred to the detention cell of the Aviation Security Group.

At dawn yesterday, Yun was found bleeding from a wound in his wrist inside his cell. Police later found that he slashed his left wrist with a sharp object.

Authorities were puzzled how Yun, who was in a straightjacket and wearing a handcuff, could slash his wrist.

Yun was brought to the nearby San Juan de Dios Hospital for treatment, where doctors also declared him fit to travel.

The Korean faces severe penalty for his heinous crimes in South Korean. Immigration officers suspected that Yun assaulted his escort and slashed his wrist while in detention to put off his deportation.

Yun's brother, accompanied by a lawyer and some security aides, visited Yun in his cell Sunday morning and even tried to convince immigration officers to confine him in the hospital for three days, said So.

"We stood our ground and said that we're deporting him today. Who knows they might try to sneak him out of the hospital if he's confined there?"

Tom Natividad, special assistant to Commissioner Andrea Domingo, said Yun entered the country in 1997 using another person's name and stayed in a beach resort in Cebu.

He said Yun was arrested last month in Cebu and then detained at the Bureau of Immigration detention center in Taguig. Yun was ordered deported on June 28.

Art alive, shining despite everything

Bare Eye

Recah Trinidad

THERE is in the current 33rd Annual Art Show of the Saturday Group at the SM Megamall Art Center a towering piece that's nearly perfect in its precision and dynamism. It's the only black and white canvas among the major works, but it stands out like a monument in its magnificence.

You see, they go through a lot of trouble to achieve catharsis. But it won't be an exaggeration to state that the piece could give the amazed viewer an ennobling lift through the classic interplay of disciplined, distinct lines.

The canvas in acrylic, simply entitled "Palitawa Revisited (No. 93)," is prized at P120,000 according to the show catalogue. That's a very humble tag,, to be frank about it.

For one, there is a lot of garbage, masked as expensive art, in our various galleries. These pretentious pieces also often carry outrageous tags.

There are, of course, sly practitioners who believe and insist that the worth of an art piece is measured through its price. And there are enough patrons ready and willing to be taken for a ride.

* * *

After a first look at the monumental painting, your straying reporter here estimated its prize at half a million pesos, or thereabout.

And this was before Lydia Velasco, one of the noted participants in the anniversary group show, revealed that Arturo Luz, National Artist for the Arts, did the canvas.

No, Mr. Luz is not a member of the Saturday Group. He, however, agreed to be part of the show as a friend, not as a guest.

Mr. Luz also cut the show's ceremonial ribbon on Saturday.

If anything, the National Artist has not only lent the Saturday Group anniversary show a shining canvas.

He gave the show resonance, and the other participants themselves reason to believe.

The annual group show, where nearly 50 artists are represented, is a strong statement that says art in the Philippines is alive and shining—despite everything.

* * *

Actually, it's easy to suspect that art here could be ruined by all the political confusion, the crimes, corruption and chaos in our midst.

Truth is that the show itself would have been one Tower of Babel with the various colors, strokes, contrasting persuasions and different voices of the participants, not a few of whom appear fresh from college.

There are, for example, aspirant Botong Franciscos in one section, including Boy Valino's main piece, a happy symphony of Ati-atihan masks. You could see Dalena quietly lingering at a few frames; while Ang Kiu Kok's strong influence is heavy in other young pieces.

There are hints of Breughel, scents of Monet and other Impressionists in the output of other artists.

So, the visitor, at first blush, could feel like being swamped by a bawdy shout of Mabini canvases, as though he has been lured into an art festival in the Tourist Belt.

But that's if he prefers to gaze from a distance, if he refuses to walk in and see for himself.

* * *

There is actually a main altar, not visible from outside, where the works of four other major names are enshrined side by side with the magical canvas of Arturo Luz.

These four others are Frank Verano, Malang, Cris Cruz and, last but not the least, Magoo Valencia.

If the works on the other flanks could taste like a joyful smorgasbord of soup, salad and other experimental delicacies, the masterpieces in the main hall, no doubt, comprise the main course.

Verano's landscape, called "Fragments of Summer," is again splendid with his standard serenity.

Cruz's famous flower bowls are forever fragrant.

Malang's tries to dazzle anew with what looks like a Roualtian experimentation he simply entitled "Women."

But of the quartet in the main altar, it's Magoo Valencia, a tireless, loyal student, who truly deserves to be along with Arturo Luz.

Your reporter here had previously criticized Valencia for having used fat, tired roosters as his models for fighting cocks.

Valencia has visibly thrown all those delicious fowls into the cooking pan and has proceeded to venerate flowers.

The latest works, a bold departure form the tame, rustic shyness of past, are a step up the ladder. His flowers, formerly plain and predictable, now wear a ghostly, haunting genuineness.

It's also easy to conclude that the artist did not arrive there by accident.

* * *

Finally, the viewer, before going out, ends up predictably planted before the Luz masterpiece.

Earlier, he heard it said that, in the case of this work, the viewer was able to feel the impact of the message, without necessarily understanding the exact shape of the images.

Are the citadels by the sea, against the evening sky, conversing with a square-eyed god or is it the other way around?

You could feel an eerie magnificence, a secret serenity, very tangible in that singular frame.

It's a bargain just being able to view that great thing.

And to think that two tired frames close to it are priced at P265,000 each.

Funny, but there are strong indications the overpriced pieces could be taken way ahead of the Luz masterpiece.

The Saturday Group exhibit ends July 21, Ernest Hemingway's birthday.

Phone seller hunted

By Christian V. Esguerra

MANILA police are hunting a young woman for allegedly duping three employees and a doctor into giving her at least P54,000 as payment for cellular phones.

The victims yesterday went to the Western Police District headquarters to file a complaint against Loriele de Calay, 23, of 4580 Guadalcanal, Sta. Mesa, Manila.

They said De Calaya disappeared after collecting money from them.

The victims were identified as employees Josephine Feliciano, 44, Nicostrato Molin, 33, Emma Pascubillo, 45, and Dr. China Benedicto, 33.

They said De Calay told them that she was selling mobile phones at a very cheap price. The phones, however, would be released only after they had made the payment, she told them.

They said that last Saturday, De Calay collected at least P54,000 from them during a meeting in a restaurant on Coastal Road in Parañaque. But after receiving the payments, the woman disappeared, they said.

The Daily Gospel

Monday, July 9, 2001
14th Week in Ordinary Time

1st Reading:	**Gen 28:10-22**
Gospel:	**Mt 9:18-26**

While Jesus was speaking to them, an official of the synagogue came up to him, bowed before him and said, "My daughter has just died, but come and place your hands on her, and she will live." Jesus stood up and followed him with his disciples.

Then a woman who had suffered from a severe bleeding for twelve years came up from behind and touched the edge of his cloak. For she thought, "If I only touch his cloak, I will be healed." Jesus turned, saw her and said, "Courage, my daughter, your faith has saved you." And from that moment the woman was cured.

When Jesus arrived at the official's house and saw the flute players and the excited crowd, he said, "Get out of here! The girl is not dead. She is only sleeping!" And they laughed at him. But once the crowd had been turned out, Jesus went in and took the girl by the hand, and she stood up. The news of this spread through the whole area.

Commentary

The gospel reading today continues to describe the new time of grace for Israel. It is a time of healing and of new life from death. The inauguration of the new era is symbolized by the healing of the woman from a long lasting sickness and the raising of a young girl from death. The two women symbolize Israel before God. In the Old Testament Israel was often described as the bride of God. In Jesus the bridegroom has arrived and with him the power of God. The two miracles symbolize the fullness of life brought by Jesus. Matthew uses very strong imagery. Where Jesus is present even death turns into an illusion: "the girl is not dead but sleeping."

Father in heaven, we thank you for calling us to life each day. Grant that we may use this life to proclaim your goodness.

Claretian Publications Inc., 8 Mayumi St., UP Village, Diliman, Quezon City, UP P.O. Box 4, Diliman, 1101 Quezon City; Tel.: 921-3984; Fax: 921-7429; E-mail: claret@cn1.net; Websites:http://www.bible.claret.org (Claretian Publications Inc.) & http://missionaries.claret.org (Claretians in the Philippines)

Supreme Court Doctrines

CRIMINAL LAW (AGGRAVATING CIRCUMSTANCES)—Treachery—The trial court erred in appreciating the circumstance of treachery so as to qualify the killing to murder. Treachery can only be appreciated "when two conditions concur, namely, that the means, method and forms of execution employed gave the person attacked no opportunity to defend himself or to retaliate and that such means, methods and form of execution were deliberately and consciously adopted." In this case, the means employed in killing the victim did not leave the victim with absolutely no opportunity to defend himself or prevent the same. For it was possible that he could have escaped as soon as accused-appellants alighted from the truck which they rode. Further, there was no showing that the means employed in the killing were deliberately and consciously adopted by the accused to insure its commission. [Citations omitted.] [Justice Quisumbing, Second Division, People v. Baltar, Jr., G.R. No. 125306, December 11, 2000]

Digest by R.B. Vera

DAGDAG
BU
ROTC
Dagdag Pahirap
ANAKBAYAN

PROTESTING cadets march on the UP campus.

EDWIN BACASMAS

ROTC walkout foiled

(From page A23)

security on campus. UST was the center of anti-ROTC protest actions on the last two Sundays.

Unlike last week, yesterday no ROTC uniforms were burned and no protesters penetrated the grandstand to call on cadets to join the walkout.

Militant groups that had previously led the charge failed to sneak into the UST gates that were secured by school guards and members of the ROTC military police.

A security guard said protesters were caught off-guard after school officials decided to schedule separate ROTC classes for freshmen and sophomore cadets. The training for sophomore cadets, who had joined the earlier boycotts, was set in the afternoon.

In Adamson University, ROTC classes went on smoothly as tight security kept a handful of protesters outside the gate.

At the Polytechnic University of the Philippines, only 45 cadets managed to leave the training grounds, according to Cristina Palabay, head of the National Union of Students in the Philippines.

She said security measures kept the protesters away.

Palabay said the walkout in Adamson failed due to the alleged deployment of Marines.

A ranking officer the Adamson ROTC denied Palabay's claim. He said protesters could be referring to Marines who were conducting a separate training nearby.

Despite the apparent failure of yesterday's anti-ROTC protest actions, militant groups were unfazed. They called on students, male and female, and school officials to join the nationwide campaign for the abolition of the ROTC program.

"We are more than determined to continue with the fight," UST cadet Romulo Yumul said in a statement. "We will seek every avenue and exhaust all possible means for this campaign.

"We will make it a weekly habit to walk out of our ROTC classes to express our rage over the program. We will refuse to allow the corruption that is embedded in the institution and we will resist the macho-fascist orientation that it pounds on the idealistic minds of the youth."

Yumul was among several students, led by slain UST ROTC cadet Mark Welson Chua, who exposed the alleged massive corruption in their school's student military training program.

Armed men, believed to be soldiers, abducted and killed Chua last March. The killing triggered the massive campaign for the abolition of ROTC.

Three killed in Makati

By Nelson Forte Flores

THREE persons were killed, including a former soldier, in separate incidents over the weekend in southern Metro Manila.

Police identified the fatalities as Augusto De Gano, 21, of Dayap Street, Western Bicutan, Taguig; Danilo Larin, 45, of Sampaloc St., Barangay Pembo, Makati City; and Michael Abian, 29, of St. Dominic St., Savio Compound, Barangay Don Bosco, Parañaque. Investigation showed that an unidentified man shot to death Augusto De Gano about 6 p.m. on Saturday along Kasoy Street in Western Bicutan, Taguig. An old grudge is believed to be the reason for the slaying, police said.

PO2 Rommel Padro, Taguig municipal police homicide investigator, said De Gano was on his way home when the suspect approached him from behind and shot him at close range with a handgun of still unknown caliber. The suspect then boarded a waiting jeep without registration plates and escaped.

Former soldier Danilo Larin was stabbed to death by his neighbor Efren Escander after a heated argument in front of the suspect's house at Block 205, Lot 12, Sampaloc St., Barangay Pembo, in Makati. Larin was rushed to the Fort Bonifacio Army Hospital where he was declared dead on arrival.

PO3 Carmelito Valiente, Makati City police desk officer, said Escander escaped after the killing, which happened at about 8:30 p.m. on Saturday. Valiente said that police are hunting down the suspect, who is believed to be hiding in Barangay Pembo.

An unidentified man shot dead Michael Abian with a .45 pistol inside a sing-along bar in Parañaque.

Police said Abian had just sung "My Way" when the man approached him from behind and shot him in the head at close range.

Police said the suspect appeared to have been irritated by Abian's version of the song, a ballad popularized by Frank Sinatra.

Payatas children send out ships of hope . . .

(From page A23)

Arroyo could give justice to the death of his parents and baby brother in the Payatas tragedy that killed more than 300 people on July 10, 2000.

Several children who lost family members in the tragedy asked Ms Arroyo yesterday to help them in their schooling, to provide them with low-cost housing, and to give justice to the victims.

The children, 12 years old and below, wrote their wishes on pieces of paper that were then made into paper boats. They put the paper boats in the Pasig River hoping the wind would blow them toward the gates of Malacañang.

They hope to move the President as they commemorate tomorrow the first anniversary of the garbage dump tragedy that killed more than 300 squatter residents including about 90 children, aged 12 and below.

Erwin Dolera, 8, who lost his 10-year-old brother in the landslide, asked the President to totally close down the dumpsite, give his family land, and help his family shoulder his school expenses.

"*Sana po ay maibigay na sa amin ang lupang kinatitirikan ng aming bahay nang sa gayon ay magkaroon na kami ng tahanan na masasabing sa amin talaga,*" he wrote in his letter.

Dolera's house was among hundreds of shanties buried under garbage when the dump in Payatas, Quezon City collapsed last year.

Jomar Pabalan, 10, wrote: "*Sana po ay mabigyan ng permanenteng trabaho ang tatay ko para hindi (siya) mahirapan sa aming panggastos.*"

A year after the tragedy, victims criticized President Macapagal for failing to look into their plight. Oliver Ortega of the Kalipunan ng Damayang Mahihirap said residents got no help from the government except for the P15,000 donation for each fatality.

"We hope the government would also help even those whose family members did not die but were similarly victimized by the tragedy," Ortega said in an interview.

About 400 families relocated after the tragedy now live in squalid conditions at Erap City in Montalban, Rizal, Ortega said.

Holdup man kills teacher

By Christian V. Esguerra

A PUBLIC school teacher yesterday morning was shot dead by one of two men who robbed a taxi in Manila, police said.

Marietta de Guzman, 37, of Jasmin Street in Don Aguedo Subdivision, Parañaque, died from a gunshot wound in the left breast, police said.

One of the two unidentified suspects shot De Guzman when she tried to jump off a red Mitsubishi Adventure taxi (PXZ-299) that they were robbing on T.M. Kalaw Street about 8:30 a.m.

Armed with a .38-caliber revolver, the men boarded the taxi driven by Arames Quinones in Parañaque and announced the heist when it reached the corner of Remedios Street and Roxas Boulevard.

The suspects then took the passengers' cellular phones, pieces of jewelry, cash, and other personal items, Manila Police said. They did not take the driver's earnings.

The holdup victims were identified as Marilou Caraig, 36, and Maricar Reyes, 19.

When the taxi stopped at an intersection along T.M. Kalaw Street, one of the suspects shot De Guzman twice when she tried to jump off the taxi.

The driver said the suspect who shot De Guzman looked to be in his 30s, medium-built, had missing front teeth, and was wearing sunglasses. The other was fat and short, he said.

After shooting De Guzman, the suspects ordered Quinones to drive them all the way to Caloocan where they alighted on 5th Avenue.

Highway rob boss shot dead

By Christian V. Esguerra

POLICE have busted a gang believed to be behind the series of highway robberies in northern Metro Manila with the killing of its alleged leader and the arrest of eight members yesterday in Malabon City.

The alleged leader, security guard Alejandro Balonzo, 42, was killed in a shootout with Malabon police about 7 a.m. in a squatters' area in Tugatog, Malabon, investigators said.

Police earlier arrested eight suspected gang members identified as Jeffrey Espiritu, 25, Danny Mangahas, 26, Manuel Tabiana Jr., 42, Elgie Paneso, 22, and Nilo Gualva, 35, and his brothers Rene, 28, Roberto, 21, and Ronel, 20.

Malabon Police led by S/Insp. Napoleon Bataycan stormed Balonzo's hideout in Samplet Compound, Tugatog based on a tip by Espiritu and Tabiana.

Even before the team could accost Balonzo, he allegedly drew a .45-caliber pistol and fired at the police officers. A bullet grazed the right cheek of PO1 Reynaldo Gabatin.

Balonzo ran toward his house but the raiders cornered him on his way to a secret passage leading to a swamp.

The suspect's group was believed to be behind the series of bus robberies in northern Metro Manila, mostly in Malabon, since last year.

Last week the gang allegedly robbed a bus on Letre Road, Malabon and took at least P50,000 in cash and valuables from its passengers.

Valenzuela amok kills 1, hurts 3

By Christian V. Esguerra

A MAN who had just arrived from the province yesterday ran amuck, killing his 18-year-old roommate and stabbing a family of three in Valenzuela City.

Melvin Agum, 35, went on a killing rampage about 4 a.m. in a house on Sarata Street in De Castro Subdivision, Mapulang Lupa, police said. He is now undergoing treatment in a Valenzuela hospital after neighbors tried to kill him.

Agum's roommate Richard Gutierrez died from a stab wound in the chest before he could arrive at the Valenzuela General Hospital, police said.

Juanito Cobardo, 48, his wife Arlene, 39, and son Junar, 18, also suffered several stab wounds in the body, police said.

Investigation showed that Agum was sleeping in a room with Gutierrez when he took a knife and stabbed Gutierrez in the chest.

The commotion woke up the Cobardos who went inside Gutierrez's room and saw the victim trying to stave off Agum's attack, police said.

Agum then turned on the Cobardos, police said.

Neighbors went to the family's rescue and beat up Agum.

A plane ticket found among Agum's possessions showed that he had just arrived from Dipolog City.

Police said Agum could be mentally ill.

Crisis forcing people to sell gifts

By Christian V. Esguerra

FOR P500, Amelita Mendoza sold a gold ring she received from her now dead husband three Christmases ago.

Mendoza, 35, said the ring was her only piece of jewelry and that it meant a lot to her. It took her husband Ricardo some time to raise the money to buy her the ring. Hard times forced Mendoza to sell it so she could buy school books for her eldest child Rica, 7, a Grade 3 pupil in a public school in Malabon.

"I am certain that my husband would understand," she said in Filipino. "I can't bear to see my children doing without their school supplies."

But with the rising cost of education and basic commodities, Mendoza said she is not sure if she can afford to send to school her youngest child.

When the couple got married in 1991, Mendoza said her husband could only afford to give her a silver-coated ring, which he borrowed from a friend. But he promised to give her a real one.

Seven years later, Ricardo fulfilled his promise and gave her the gold ring for Christmas.

He died the following year from tuberculosis, a disease he contracted while working as a part time housepainter in construction sites in Malabon and nearby Caloocan.

Mendoza is only one of the many people hit by the economic crisis who are selling Christmas gifts they received to see them through the hard times.

In nearby Valenzuela, Mang Anding, 55, sold a 14-inch television given to him by his daughter as a Christmas present in 1996, so he could pay his electric and water bills.

Mang Anding's daughter left to work in the Middle East in 1998 and he has not heard from her since.

"Life is a struggle. I cannot do anything but sell what I own," he said in Filipino.

He sold the television to a neighbor for P1,000. The neighbor told Mang Anding he could still get back the television if he pays back the money, plus P300 a month in interest.

The terms made it impossible for Mang Anding to get back the television. He survives only by collecting and selling junk in squatter areas in Valenzuela.

While the P1,000 he got from the sale was enough to pay his monthly bills, Mang Anding is looking forward to much tougher days ahead.

He no longer has anything to sell except for a worn-out transistor radio that costs about P150. So he tries hard to stretch his meager earnings by leaving his house at 7 a.m. then returning home for a lunch of bread and instant noodles. He usually reserves for dinner a meal of rice and dried fish or a can of sardines.

In between meals, Mang Anding staves off his hunger by drinking glasses of water in a nearby carinderia.

"If you're poor, you will get used to not eating," he said.

Mang Anding is used to being poor and eating meager meals. During the currency crisis a few years ago, he said made do with only instant noodles, mongo beans and rice most of the time.

The peso devaluation didn't really make sense to him. It simply meant misery for him.

He remains sentimental about his television and fears that his daughter would get angry when she returns one day. But he said he had to be practical.

Priscilla de Guzman, 25, an employee in Caloocan also learned to deal with sentimentality when she sold in a garage sale the clothes she received as Christmas presents from friends and relatives during the last 10 years.

De Guzman said she did not want to do this but felt she would have better use for the clothes if she sold them.

Her 60-year-old father, Mario, had left government service six years ago. Her mother Juanita, a buy-and-sell agent, was left to provide for her two brothers' education. Both are now in college in a private school in Caloocan.

Two weeks ago, she invited her neighbors and friends to check out her clothes on sale in her house in Bukid area.

Within three days, she was able to sell most of her goods for some P6,000.

De Guzman said she was able to pay for her family's water and electric bills. She kept the rest of the money for her brothers' school expenses in the coming weeks.

"I feel bad about selling my clothes because they mean something to me. But the money from the sale helped my family a lot," she said in Filipino.

If she would receive presents again this Christmas, De Guzman said she would sell them again if she had to.

The economic crisis has left her with no other choice.

EDWIN BACASMAS

'KOTONG' SUSPECTS ALL IN A ROW

Fourteen traffic enforcers from the Makati Public Safety Authority (Mapsa), the Department of Public Safety and Traffic Management of Caloocan City and the motorcycle unit of the Pasig police are presented to media people after their arrest for alleged mulcting.

Death comes crawling while worker sleeps

By Philip C. Tubeza

DEATH came to laborer Junjie F. Nines while he was sleeping yesterday morning in Quezon City.

Nines, 22, of Purok 8, Dorquin Compound, Muntinlupa, was hacked and stabbed to death while he was fast asleep at a construction site in Block 1 Lot 1 Baltimore St. Vista Real, Classica Subdivision, Barangay Balara, Quezon City, said investigator PO2 Pedrito Miranda, of the Central Police District-Criminal Investigation Unit.

Nines died after the still unidentified suspect hacked him in the neck and in his right shoulder and then stabbed him repeatedly in different parts of his body, Miranda said.

Police said they already have an idea on the suspect's identity but would not reveal details pending an arrest. The suspect and Nines recently had a punching match because of an old grudge, police said.

Nines was sleeping on the third floor of the house being constructed at Classica Subdivision when the suspect sneaked in between 1 and 2 a.m. yesterday, police said.

Armed with a bolo, the suspect began to hack and stab Nines who was awakened but was apparently too weak from his wounds to fight off his assailant, police said.

But the assault woke up Nines' coworker, Narciso Cruzada, who saw the suspect flee, carrying the bolo, police said.

Cruzada could not save Nines who died before he could be taken to the hospital.

His body was later brought to the Philippine National Police Crime Laboratory for an autopsy.

Police have launched a manhunt against the suspect, who is believed to be still in Metro Manila.

VAL HANDUMON, EDWIN BACASMAS

PUBLIC BATHS

Trust children to turn even a problem into a source of fun. They take advantage of a flooded canal along Letre Road in Tonsuya, Malabon, and a pool created by a leaking water pipe at the corner of Edsa and East Avenue in Quezon City.

Thieves break into Cosmos warehouse

By Philip C. Tubeza

THREE weeks after the Jac Liner office was robbed of nearly P1 million, robbers struck again at a big company in Quezon City on Saturday night.

This time, five unidentified men held up the Cosmos Bottling Corp. warehouse at No. 6 Scout Tuazon St. in Barangay Obrero, Quezon City.

Police were still trying to find out how much money the suspects were able to take, said investigator P02 Joseph Dino of the Central Police District-Criminal Investigation Unit (CPD-CIU).

Investigators yesterday invited Cosmos employee Richard Tria, 25, a stay-in worker at the warehouse, to the CPD-CIU office at Camp Karingal, Sikatuna Village, Quezon City.

Police are investigating the possibility that the robbery was an inside job.

Besides taking the money, the suspects were also able to get two cal. .38 revolvers, and a 12-guage shotgun from Cosmos security guards Magus Rodriguez, Rumualdo Mater and Gerry Duga-duga, Dino said.

He said the robbery happened at 10:05 p.m. Friday. The suspects, who were on board an Isuzu jeep, suddenly stopped in front of the main gate of the warehouse.

The men, armed with handguns, suddenly alighted from the jeep, surprising Rodriguez, Mater and Duga-duga.

They disarmed the guards and told them to drop to the ground face down, Dino said.

The suspects then proceeded to the warehouse office and told the workers there to drop to the floor, Dino said.

He said the robbers ordered cashier Arnel Gonzales to open the vault. Gonzales did as he was told and the suspects took the money.

The armed men went back to their jeep and drove away, Dino said.

Investigators were interviewing witnesses who might be able to give a clear description of the suspects, Dino added.

The CPD leadership had reshuffled its officers and men and vowed to increase police visibility after a series of robberies in Quezon City last month.

Butcher slain over 'lugaw'

By Jerome Aning

A BUTCHER was stabbed to death by a man who reportedly got offended when he refused to share rice porridge with him in Binondo, Manila Thursday afternoon.

Eduardo Saludes alias Eddie Bulate, 36, a resident of 841 Alonzo Velasquez St., Tondo, suffered numerous stab wounds in the body. He was pronounced dead upon arrival at the Gat Andres Bonifacio Memorial Medical Center, police said.

PO3 Dennis Javier of the Western Police District homicide section said the stabbing took place inside an eatery at 248-C C.M. Recto Avenue in Binondo.

Waitress Elsa Fernandez, 27, told police that Saludes, who worked in the nearby Divisoria market, arrived at the eatery around 5:30 p.m. and borrowed a bowl and a spoon so he could eat rice porridge that he had bought.

Saludes offered to share the porridge with other people in the eatery but he missed Ramon Aguedes alias Utal, 37, a resident of 248-J. C.M. Recto.

Aguedes, apparently offended, stomped out of the eatery and stood outside his nearby residence, from where he called out to Saludes, "*Ako,* Eddie, *'di mo ba ko aalukin* (What about me Eddie, won't you also offer me)?"

But Saludes replied, "*Gago, hindi ka kasali rito* (Fool, you are not with us)," according to the waitress. She told police that the two were not on speaking terms because of a quarrel.

Aguedes went inside his house and came out with a dagger, which he used to stab Saludes repeatedly, witnesses said.

Agudes escaped.

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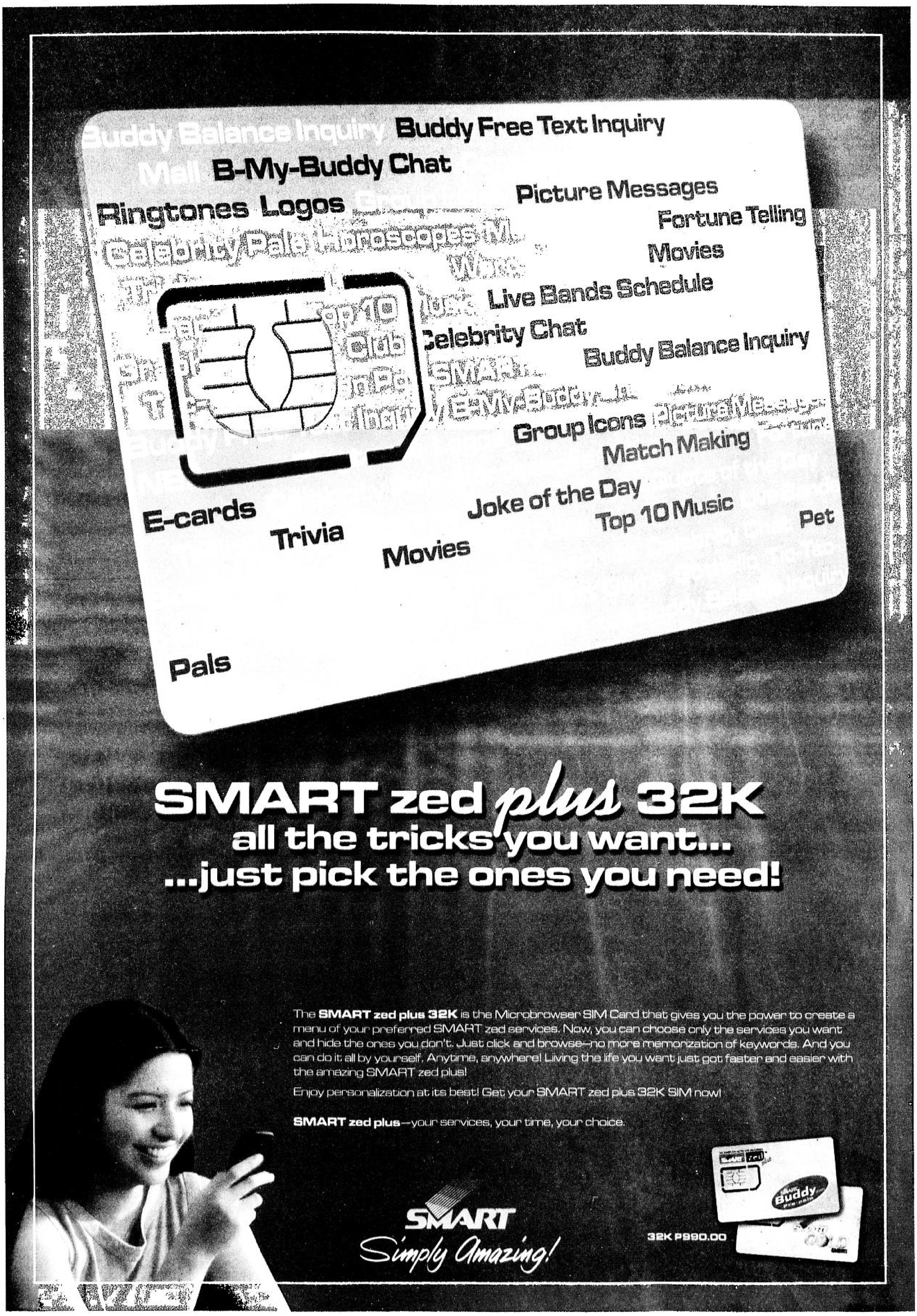
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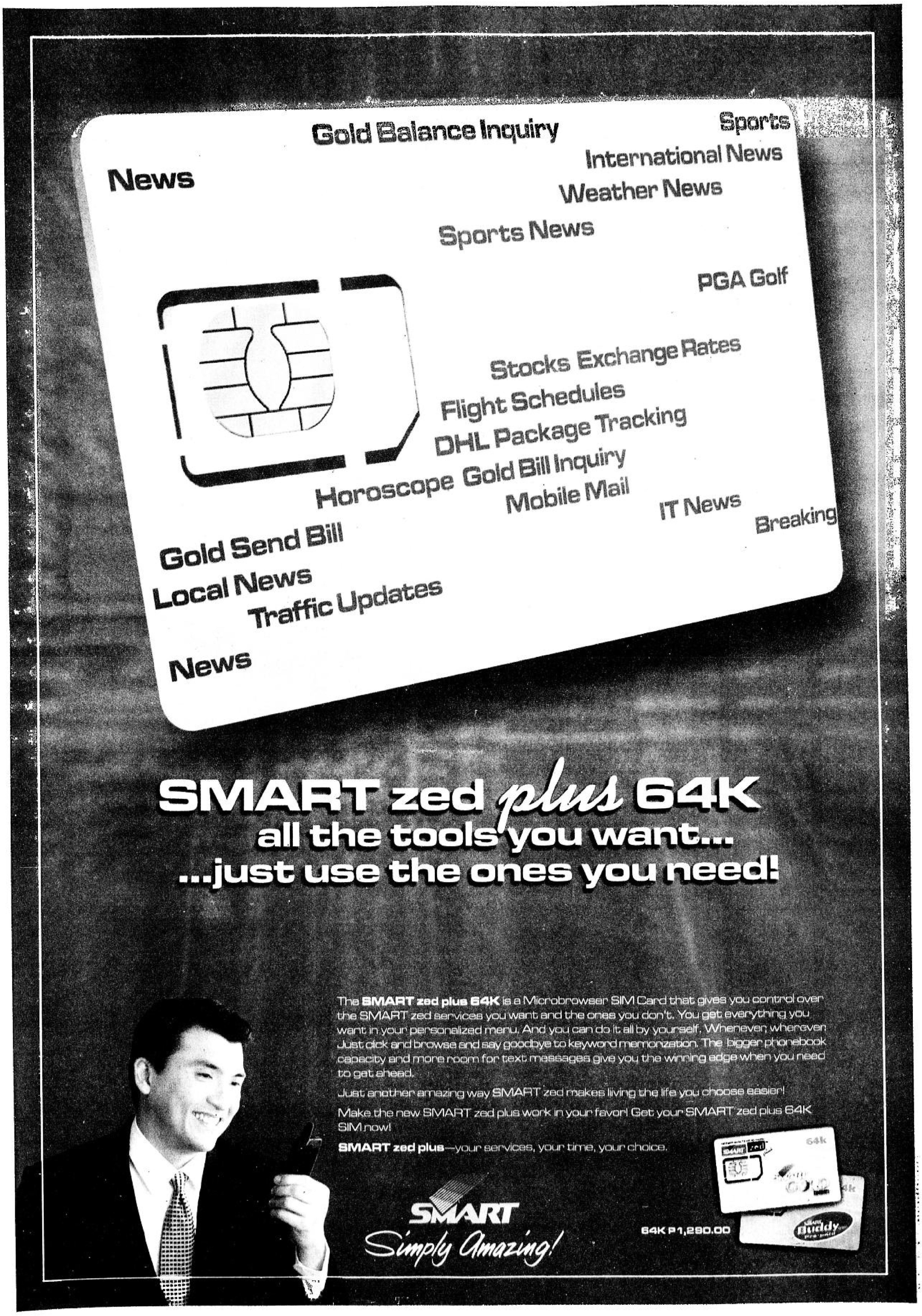
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12 PANINDA

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12 PANINDA

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9 MILA
10 DUNGEONS & DRAGONS

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7 CLOSED
8 MAGENTA

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Golden Pearl THX

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2 SWORD FISH
3 DUNGEONS & DRAGONS

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5 TOMB RAIDER
6 DUNGEONS & DRAGONS
7 SWORD FISH
8 ONE NIGHT AT MC COOL'S

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2 EVOLUTION

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2 PANINDA
3 TOMB RAIDER

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Sunshine
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2 MILA
3 PANGAKO, IKAW LANG
4 PANINDA

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2 CITY OF SINS
3 MILA
4 ONE NIGHT AT MC COOL'S
5 ATLANTIS
6 PANINDA
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8 (SDDS) TOMB RAIDER
9 (DOLBY) DUNGEONS & DRAGONS

Caloocan
tel 362.3508
2 PANGAKO IKAW LANG

Grand Central
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9 MILA

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4 PANGAKO, IKAW LANG
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5 RESERVE
6 ATLANTIS

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3 SWORD FISH
4
5

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3 (DTS) PANGAKO, IKAW LANG

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3 (DOLBY) TOMB RAIDER
4 ATLANTIS

Lianas Cinema
(Alabang) tel 850.1276
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2 PANINDA
3 PANGAKO, IKAW LANG
4 (DTS) ONE NIGHT AT MC COOL'S

Lianas MovieCity
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202
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2 PANGAKO, IKAW LANG
3 (DTS) SPOT
4 ATLANTIS
5 ACCIDENTAL SPY

Olivarez Tri-Cinema
(Biñan) tel (049) 511.8883
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3 MILA

Olivarez Los Baños
tel (049) 536.5101
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2 ACCIDENTAL SPY
3 TOMB RAIDER

Olivarez Tagaytay
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2 MILA
3 MAGENTA

Morales Cinema
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Jade Cinema
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THEATER MOVIE GUIDE

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ALI MALL CINEPLEX-1	MILA
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-2	PANGAKO, IKAW LANG
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-3 (DDS)	TOMB RAIDER
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-4 (SDDS)	SWORD FISH
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-5 (DTS)	ATLANTIS
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-6 (DOLBY)	DUNGEONS & DRAGONS
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-7(DOLBY)	ONE NIGHT AT MC COOL'S
FARMERS PLAZA-1(DOLBY)	PANGAKO, IKAW LANG
FARMERS PLAZA-2(DOLBY)	SWORD FISH
FIESTA CARNIVAL	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
NEW FRONTIER	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
MANILA	
EASTERN	
MAXIM	CLOSED
MIRAMAR	MADAME X / GIRLS
ODEON	SWORD FISH
ODEON-2	ONE NIGHT AT MC COOL'S
ROBEN	PANINDA
TANDEM-1	KASIBULAN
TANDEM-2	SIN OF THE NIGHT
TIMES	15 MILUTES / ATTACK FORCE
QUEZON CITY	
ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	CLOSED
ACT-4	CLOSED
CORONET-2	ONE NIGHT AT MC COOL'S
QUEZON-1	PANINDA
REMAR	SWORD FISH
REMAR-2	PANINDA
CUBAO	
OCEAN SUPERAMA	BABAENG PUTIK
OCEAN CINEMA-A	PANABLA
OCEAN CINEMA-B	CRISELDA
MANDALUYONG CITY	
SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA-1	SWORD FISH
CINEMA-2	ATLANTIS
CAINTA RIZAL	
STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-5401 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	PANGAKO, IKAW LANG
CINEMA-2	ACCIDENTAL SPY
CINEMA-3	MILA
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	TOMB RAIDER
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	PEARL HARBOR
CINEMA-6	EVOLUTION
CINEMA-7	CITY OF SINS
CINEMA-8	MILA
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	TOMB RAIDER
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	SWORD FISH
CINEMA-11(SDDS)	ATLANTIS
CINEMA-12	DUNGEONS & DRAGONS
CINEMA-14	ONE NIGHT AT MC COOL'S
CINEMA-15	PANGAKO, IKAW LANG
LORES	
CINEMA-2	CLOSED
CINEMA-3	CLOSED
POWER PLANT CINEMA	
CINEMA-1	ONE NIGHT AT MC COOL'S
CINEMA-2	ATLANTIS
CINEMA-3	ATLANTIS
CINEMA-4	TOMB RAIDER
CINEMA-5	DUNGEONS & DRAGONS
CINEMA-6	SWORD FISH
UNIWIDE METROMALL	
(LAS PIÑAS)	
CINEMA-1	VALENTINE
CINEMA-2	TOO MUCH FLESH
CINEMA-4	UHAW NA HAYOP
UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL	
(PARAÑAQUE)	
CINEMA-1	KAMANDAG NG ROSAS
CINEMA-2	BLONDIE
CINEMA-4	HOT LOVER

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Jazz station holds bar tours

TAKE your pick from cool jazz rhythms, captivating movie themes to razing tunes as rendered by the country's talented artists courtesy of Joey@92.3 FM.

Richard Merk delivers the blues to start your working week right with "Jazz Jivin' with Joey" at Monk's Dream on Jupiter St., Makati City. Listen to good old jazz music on Mondays (July 9, 16, 23, 30) starting 9 p.m.

Joey then takes you to a trip down memory lane with "Reel Rhythms" every Wednesday night (July 11, 18, 25) at the Greenbelt Mall Food Court. Catch your favorite movie themes as rendered by Mood Swings starting 8:30 p.m. Thanks to National Sports Grill.

Hard Rock Café is the venue of Joey's "Acoustic Nights" this month. Expect a funky good time with Bituin Escalante and Acoustic Jive on Thursdays (July 5, 12, 19, 26) starting 9 p.m. The bar tour is presented by Carnation Calcium Plus, Carefree Panty Shields, and Shell Citibank Gold.

Catch more of the rhythms by tuning in to Joey@92.3 FM.

Advance screening

YES FM 101.1 sponsors the advanced screening of the movie "Along Came A Spider," 7:30 tonight at SM Megamall Cinema 4.

Listeners can win free movie premiere tickets by simply tuning in to Yes FM and wait for the deejay's signal to call the station at 840-4747.

"Along Came A Spider" is a psychological suspense thriller adapted from James Patterson's first highly acclaimed novel in the Alex Cross series.

Actor Morgan Freeman reprises his role as the Washington, D.C. police detective and psychologist who has quit playing mind games with criminal—that is until a methodical predator Gary Soneji (Michael Wincott) commits a daring kidnapping and lures Cross into the case. The film also stars Monica Potter.

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Hear the Difference, Feel the Excitement

Janice learns to cope; apologies to Art Bell

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Leah Salterio

JANICE de Belen is way past anger, three months after she and her husband, TV host **John Estrada**, parted ways. She can now talk openly about the breakup of their marriage.

"Separation is something I never imagined," Janice allows. "It's not something that you plan for and you can never be ready for something like that. But I've learned to accept that things like these happen.

"The life we lead depends on the moral choices we make. I will not be a hypocrite and boast that I'm happy, but I'm coping well and in a peaceful way."

She claims she has forgiven John. "But you will always remember the hurt, humiliation and the lies.

"I'd still like to think I'm in a better place now because I don't have to speculate anymore. I've been angry too long and I'm now beyond that."

The biggest change she has to cope with is not being a single parent but being alone at night. "My kids were so used to seeing only me because John had to work," Janice offers. "But even after our separation, John still visits the kids practically everyday. I don't deny him that."

Asked if reconciliation is possible, Janice says, "I'm a black and white person. It's either I give it or I don't. There's no middle ground for me. To be won back at this point, I guess, is a complicated matter. But I'm not closing my doors. We were married for 10 years. You cannot deny that."

The breakup has been a humbling experience for her, but she has no regrets. "No relationship is perfect. What I gave him (John) was my undying love. I gave it not because it was asked for but because I wanted to give it.

"But despite what happened, I don't blame myself. I learned a lot about myself, about other people and about life. It has made me a better person. It has contributed to the strength I have now.

"But I also know that there was no way I could hold on to the marriage. I would have been miserable if I did it and it would rub off on my children. I didn't want that to happen so I let go."

Janice, who hosts GMA's show biz-oriented talk show, "S-Files" (Sundays, 4 p.m.), is rediscovering herself.

"This is really scary," she admits. "When I was still pinch-hitting for **Lyn (Ching)**, I was not feeling any pressure because I know the show was not mine.

"But now I have to do my best. I can feel the pressure of competition. I can do drama with my eyes closed, but I get exhausted in hosting now. Every Sunday, when I get home from work, I'm really drained."

Knowing she is not as naturally engaging as her younger sister **Gelli**, Janice had to make a conscious effort to be a good talk show host.

"By nature, I'm not really a talker," she explains. "In the past, I have always been very careful in drawing the line between my private and public life. Now, I have to learn to ask the right questions of my fellow show biz star and make them open up to me."

Of co-host **Paolo Bediones**, she says, "He's more into this than I am. I've never met a guy who's more *madaldal* than I am."

Now that she is a contract star of GMA, Janice is also being eyed to star in a soap series soon.

"They are going to hire me for what I do best," says the former child star who made the soap series "Flor de Luna" a long-time favorite.

Of her children, Janice say, "I don't work on Fridays and Saturdays so I can be with them."

She believes her biggest asset is her positive attitude toward things. "I'm also confident of my personality and the way I carry myself. I know what I can do and what I cannot."

Apology to Mr. Bell

WE received hundreds of e-mail from INQUIRER readers reacting to our column, "US talk radio host insults Filipinos on Internet," which came out on July 1. In that column, we printed excerpts from an article allegedly written by **Art Bell**. However, it turned out that the real Mr. Bell was not behind the malicious e-mail.

The article came out in 1998 and Mr. Bell had denied having written it. The denial can be found in his website which has a link to Filipinos, particularly because of that vile e-mail.

"In no way Mr. Bell could write something like that because his wife, **Ramona**, is half-Filipina," said a reader.

"I personally know Mr. Bell is not a racist or prejudiced in any shape or form," wrote another.

A technical consultant from America Online Inc. also pointed out to us that an e-mail address can be cloned and that junk mail is one of the biggest problems on the Internet.

People working for Mr. Bell, including his legal counsel **Gerard Fox**, called INQUIRER's attention and pointed out the article was written by a person impersonating Art Bell.

Mr. Bell is a Nevada-based talk radio host and his program is syndicated in over 400 stations in the United States.

Most of the messages we received since the column came out blamed, reprimanded and chastised us for printing the article without verifying it from Mr. Bell's website.

We were told Mr. Bell even got death threats, putting him and his family in danger, as a result of our column.

By printing the e-mail, we did not mean to damage the reputation of Mr. Bell nor antagonize him in any way. We do not really know Mr. Bell, so the article was printed without the intention of maligning him.

We sincerely apologize to Mr. Bell and his family for printing excerpts of the article in our column and attributing the article to him.

We would also like to make it clear to all the INQUIRER readers that Mr. Bell has nothing to do with the article.

DE BELEN

Whose show . . .

(From page A30)

Let's hope that, in Dingdong's second of four episode this Wednesday, he'll finally be able to stake thespic ownership of the limited drama series that is supposed to be his vehicle to solo stardom on the small and big screens.

Feedback

FROM WALLY R. Bernas of Quezon City: "The problems that the Filipino movie industry is facing are indeed serious and complex. I would like to point out that, although some of them are of the industry's own making, they are not its concerns alone.

"We moviegoers should also do our part in solving them. We should patronize Filipino movies again, at least the good ones. Only if we all work together can we keep Hollywood movies from defeating our own.

'Next Wave'

MEET the world's outstanding young scientists in the National Geographic Channel's "Next Wave" series, which airs every Wednesday at 9 p.m., beginning July 25.

The 13-part series features a team of explorers in search of pristine reefs, natural phenomena, perfect waves and magical medicines. The series was shot in different locations – Papua New Guinea, Indonesia and Myanmar.

Travel methods used by the team for gathering stories included flying, sailing, canoeing, elephant riding, hiking, horse riding, climbing, jungle trekking, snorkeling and scuba diving!

The series' co-presenters are Matt Tomaszeuski and Dr. Jo Rush, both Australians. The team includes young scientists from the US, Australia, Papua New Guinea, the Netherlands, Canada, Germany, Indonesia, Switzerland and the United Kingdom.

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TOMB RAIDER - P 13 12:30, 2:50, 5:10, 7:30, 9:50	DUNGEONS & DRAGONS - GP 12:50, 3:05, 5:20, 7:35, 9:50	SWORD FISH - R 18 11:00, 1:10, 3:20, 5:30, 7:45, 10:00

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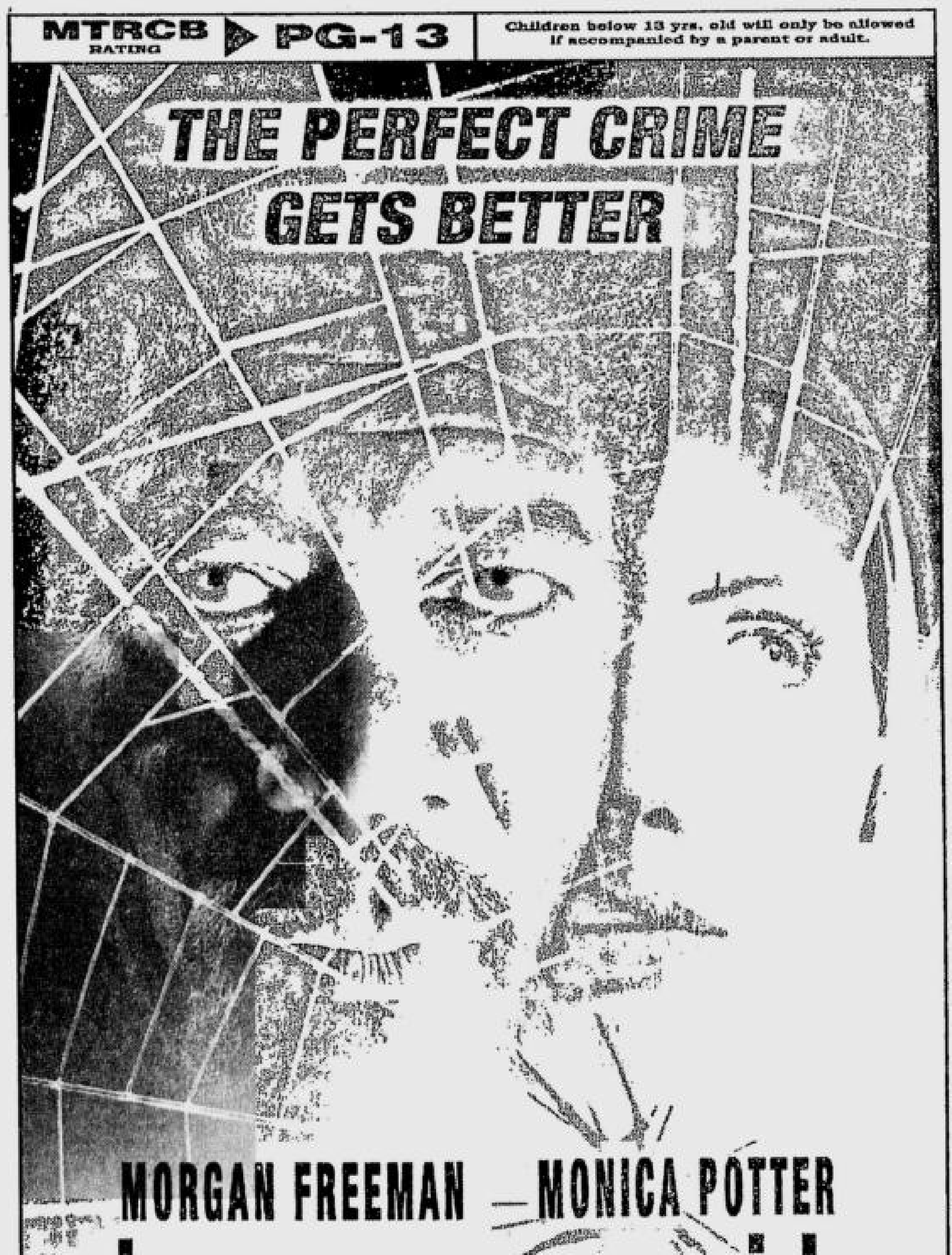
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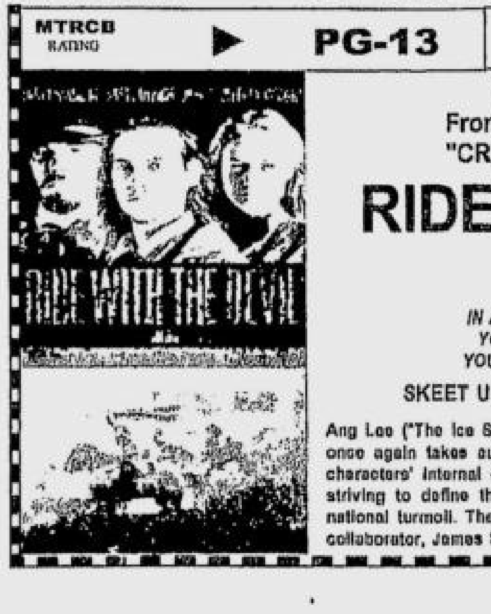

PHILIPPINE PREMIERE
From the Critically Acclaimed Director of "CROUCHING TIGER, HIDDEN DRAGON"
RIDE WITH THE DEVIL
A Film by ANG LEE
IN A NO-MAN'S LAND BETWEEN NORTH AND SOUTH, YOU DIDN'T FIGHT FOR THE BLUE OR THE GRAY... YOU FOUGHT FOR YOUR FRIENDS AND YOUR FAMILY.
SKEET ULRICH TOBEY MAGUIRE JEFFREY WRIGHT
Ang Lee ("The Ice Storm," "Sense and Sensibility" & Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon") once again takes audiences on a journey to a different time and place, and into his characters' internal conflicts. A cast of rising young stars portrays young Americans, striving to define themselves and the country they had always called home, amidst national turmoil. The screenplay for Ride with the Devil is adapted (by Lee's longtime collaborator, James Schamus) from Daniel Woodrell's novel Woe to Live On.

a production of NBC Entertainment

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ENTERTAINMENT

LOUIE C. CAMINO, Editor

A week of hunks

KRIS AND TELL

Kris Aquino

I HAD an exciting week taping features with the "Hunks"—**Piolo Pascual, Carlos Agassi, Diether Ocampo, Jericho Rosales** and **Bernard Palanca.**

Piolo and I taped a drink-mixing segment at Dreams on Timog Avenue in Quezon City. To give him due credit, we had a 6 p.m. calltime and, according to my staff, Piolo was there at 5:30 p.m., and he just slept in his car while waiting for us to roll. Piolo was fresh and charming even when he had packed up from taping his soap opera "Sa Puso Ko'y Iingatan Ka" at sunrise that day.

I don't drink. The most I can handle is a piña colada (Friday's makes the best) and Bailey's on ice. Dessert-like drinks, you know? The whole drink-mixing feature was geared toward my tasting the drinks that Piolo mixed.

He mixed me a margarita, which was pretty yummy, the combination of salt and sourness was icy and refreshing.

Next Piolo made me try a zombie. In high school I'm sure we all gave this a try in Tia Maria's. It was a bit strong, and I felt the alcohol go straight to my head. Lastly, Piolo mixed up a Vodka Currant with Sprite. It was okay, but I'd have been happier with just plain Sprite.

Piolo doesn't need to give his date any alcohol. His good looks alone can already make any girl heady with awe. He has such beautiful eyes and fabulous cheekbones. I was impressed with his maturity when we were talking off-cam.

Piolo was wearing a cute leather necklace with a blue marble pendant. I teased him about who gave it to him. Because he was honest enough to tell me who gave it to him, I'll show my appreciation by not telling you guys. Even a hunk deserves some privacy.

Carlos' family

Carlos Agassi showed me his abdominal workout at Slimmer's World on Pasay Road.

Carlos is already a buddy of mine. I love interviewing him because he is so candid. I was supposed to do the exercises with him, but it was that time of the month for me when we taped, so I had to beg off from the tough workout.

Carlos is genetically blessed because he's naturally lean and predisposed to developing muscles in all the right places. He has well defined shoulders and arms, and he has the best "6-pack," or what can be described as rows of *pan de sal* in his abdominal area.

In between takes we were talking about his family. Carlos is a concerned big brother and when he was relating how he was trying to be the family's disciplinarian, I admired his "family-first" attitude.

He was a bit late for our taping, but I excused him because from taping, instead of crashing in bed, he'd shared an early morning snack with his *lola* who'd just arrived home from a visit to the US and still had jet lag. Carlos chatted with his lola and updated her on his life, and he didn't get to sleep until sunrise, hence his difficulty in getting up for our 1 p.m. taping.

I can only hope **Josh** will be that solicitous and caring toward his lola.

Diet's determination

Next up I taped with Diether Ocampo in UP. Diet is now auditing some film classes and he hopes to be a regular student by next semester.

Of all the Hunks, I've had the most bonding time with Diet beause we shared the same manager, and later on because we just won each other's trust. Diet and I would go to Sunday Mass together because we belong to the same parish. Unfortunately, I now tape on Sundays after "The Buzz," so we've been missing out on our Sunday nights.

Diet's also a movie buddy. We both love watching movies on the big screen or on DVD. Despite all our work, we do manage to squeeze in some cinema time.

In Diether, I see the determination of **Richard Gomez**. Goma was always driven and he used his time wisely.

Diet is the same. He decided to take up Film 101 and 102 even if they wouldn't be credited. He said he was taping only three times a week and he had two free weekdays, so why not put the time to good use?

He's also thinking long-term, wanting to develop his skills behind the camera, hoping to become a television commercial director in the future. Diet is also working on putting up a production company.

My wish for Diet is that he will have respect and a long career like Richard, and that he'll also have someone as loving and beautiful as Goma's Lucy in his personal life.

Jericho's warmth

Of all the Hunks, **Jericho Rosales** was much of a mystery to me. I'm an avid viewer of "Pangako sa 'Yo," and I even discuss plot points with my sisters and cousins. I love his character Angelo, but apart from a few interviews, I really hadn't encountered much of Echo.

In the middle of typhoon "Feria," we were scheduled to tape a cooking segment. Echo is a Bicolano and he'd be preparing *ginataang sugpo*. He'd come straight from a band rehearsal, and our taping didn't start until almost midnight.

Echo brought his nephew **Ryan** with him, although Ryan is a year older. Turns out Ryan was the cooking expert, but Echo was a quick study.

Jericho knew how to slice, sliver, crush and chop the garlic, onions, ginger, and peppers. He gamely deveined the prawns and he squeezed the coconut himself for the *gata*.

What made the whole experience even more impressive was that he did all this neatly, and while dressed in a plain white shirt and really nice fitting jeans. It was the look of a man's man doing what's typically a woman's job. Who wouldn't fall in love?

As they say the proof is in the tasting. The dish Echo prepared was hot and spicy, but undeniably delicious.

What made the experience so much more memorable was what I witnessed in Echo. The location was a bit warm because the window-type aircon unit had to be turned off for it was interfering with our audio. Halfway through, he must have gotten thirsty so Jericho took it upon himself to buy Coke in the convenience store across the hall and distributed them to everybody on the set. And he knew the names of everyone in the crew and made easy conversation with all.

His intensity as an actor has already been praised by the likes of **Laurice Guillen** and a newspaper poll had him garnering the highest number of votes as the "Next Most Important Dramatic Actor." The warmth and camaraderie he exhibited during our taping has not only won me over as a fan of Jericho the actor, but more importantly of Jericho, the person.

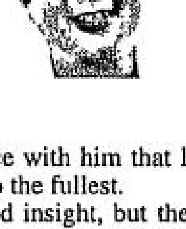
This has already run longer than it should. I'll have to write about Bernard's "spinning" for Friday.

That was a memorable taping because it was preceded by a "reconciliatory" dinner with **Dina Bonnevie.** Ms D even joined me for my taping, and those details are surely worth waiting for until Friday, right?

Whose show is this, anyway?

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre



LAST Wednesday, we caught the first of four "Larawan" episodes that **Dingdong Dantes** is starring in this month on Channel 7 (9 p.m.). When the drama finally ended, we wondered: Who's show is this, anyway?

That was our reaction because the episode appeared to focus, not on Dingdong, but on **Regine Velasquez**, who played the older woman who had gotten deeply involved with Dingdong's character.

In the drama, Dingdong was cast as a young drummer who had a congenital heart ailment that threatened his young life. Afraid to die on the operating table, he refused to go to the hospital, despite the desperate entreaties of his mother **(Rio Locsin).**

Dingdong had a young girlfriend who was madly in love with him, but he couldn't reciprocate her feelings. It took a chance encounter with a career woman (Regine) to finally inflame him with love.

Even after a one-night stand, Regine didn't want to have Dingdong for a serious boyfriend, despite his obvious appeal. But his love for her was so strong that she eventually had to capitulate.

Trouble was, he didn't tell her about his potentially serious illness, so when he finally collapsed, Regine's world fell with him. She pleaded with him to agree to be operated on, but he adamantly refused.

The episode ended with Dingdong's death, but it was intimated before the final fade that Regine was going to move on, having learned from her brief romance with him that life must be seized and lived to the fullest.

Good insight, but the point is that it's realized by Regine, not Dingdong. That's generally what happened throughout the episode: While Dingdong was its ostensible lead, his character was passive for the most part, while Regine was doing most of the persuading and risk-taking.

As a result, the focus fell away from Dingdong, and Regine romped away with the show. This is a no-no for a four-episode drama series that is trying to boost its featuerd young talent to stardom.

How could this have been allowed to happen? A protagonist's role has to be active, not passive; fighting, not perennially hesitant and fearful.

If he were a really exceptional actor, Dingdong could have managed to wrest control of the episode despite its unfocused scripting and direction. Trouble is, he is not yet that kind of performer, so he had to fade away while Regine's character asserted herself.

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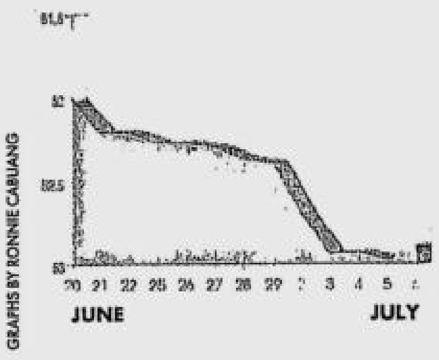


GRAPHS BY RONNIE CABUANG

Peso-Dollar Rate

₱52.890 = $1

As of 5 p.m.,
July 6, 2001

¥125.74 = $1

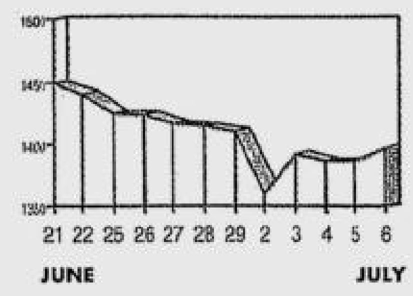
The US dollar was trading at 125.74 as of 5 p.m., July 6, 2001

GOLD:$265.50/266.00
per ounce Hong Kong,
July 6, 2001

STOCK MARKET

Slow trade seen

PSE Composite Index



(See stock market report on Page B6)

STOCK market investors are expected to take their cue on how the peso will move this week.

Analysts said further weakness in the local currency could dampen further sentiment in stocks. Other factors such as the peace and order and kidnapping problems will continue to weigh on market sentiment. On the other hand, an improvement in the exchange rate or a resolution of the other issues would likely help boost interest in the market.

The Phisix succumbed to profit taking last week as investors unloaded selective stocks ahead of the weekend. Analysts said investors were wary of any possible negative developments that may happen over the weekend.

BSP, Finance expect peso to strengthen

BY CLARISSA S. BATINO

FINANCE Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho has projected a recovery of the economy by the first quarter of 2002 when the country should start enjoying higher export earnings, a stronger peso, and faster economic growth.

Camacho, in a roundtable discussion with the INQUIRER, said most foreign banks also expect the peso to bounce back to a range of 48 to 50.50 to $1 a year from now and to between 50 and 52 to $1 over the next six months.

"Even foreign banks are bullish on our peso prospects," Camacho noted.

Bangko Sentral Governor Rafael Buenaventura agreed that the peso should recover to a level closer to 50 by year's end.

"In fact we should see the peso at stable levels, something better than 53 this week while on the mid- to long-term, we should see more significant improvements," the central bank chief added.

Both economic officials admitted that the peace and order situation continued to play a big factor against the peso and the economy in general.

Camacho said the Abu Sayyaf hostage crisis led to a self-fulfilling psychology on the peso where "rational speculation" led importers to buy their dollar requirements ahead while the exporters and the overseas contract workers held on to their dollars thinking that the peso would continue to weaken.

"I think we would have a real recovery by the first quarter of next year, and we would see a stronger growth and a stronger exports and, eventually, a stronger peso," Camacho said.

The BSP governor said the market appeared to have calmed down after realizing that fears that the peso would hit 60 to $1 was baseless.

"The peso was paying a premium for the nervousness of the market but people are starting to realize that despite weak exports, there is no deterioration in the country's fundamentals," Buenaventura said.

The peso closed at 52.89 to $1 last Friday, nine centavos better from the previous day but still approximating the rate during the last days of the Estrada administration.

"We need to restore the confidence in our peace and order situation so we could go back to normal spreads over other currencies. We really need the confidence back

BSP/ B8

Japan rating firm sees stable outlook for RP

WHILE American rating firms continued to ignore the country's achievements, the Japanese Credit Rating Agency has affirmed a stable outlook for the Philippines while keeping a rating on sovereign bond issues at triple-B.

Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho welcomed the news and said a BBB rating indicated that the country has adequate capacity to service its debts as these fell due.

The neighboring credit rating firm departed from the findings of leading firms Standard & Poor's and Moody's Investors Service that had retained a negative outlook for the Philippines.

The Japanese agency said the stable rating and outlook reflected the improvements in the country's external balance since the Asian crisis as well as the Macapagal administration's pro-active policy in putting in place economic reforms.

"This is an objective and unbiased assessment of the long-term prospects of the country," said Camacho who was dismayed with the decision of New-York based firms to keep a negative outlook.

The finance chief said the Standard & Poor's decision, made during his early days in finance, had

JAPAN/ B2

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Urbancorp gets another 60-day reprieve

By Elena R. Torrijos

THE SECURITIES and Exchange Commission has extended by another 60-days from July 8 its order granting debt relief to Urbancorp Investments Inc. (UII), a 40-percent owned investment house of closed Urban Bank Inc.

In its order last week, a three-member SEC panel said the debt relief extension could also be lifted earlier upon the SEC's approval of the investment house's rehabilitation plan.

State-owned Philippine Deposit Insurance Corp., Urban Bank's receiver, has approved in principle the rehabilitation plan submitted by Export and Industry Bank and the National Association of Urban Bank and Urbancorp Depositors and Creditors. The bank is scheduled to reopen in August.

Under the proposed rehabilitation plan, at least 10 percent of the deposits and placements of the Urban group, or at least P1.25 billion, will be converted into equity. This will be followed by the merger of EIB, Urban Bank and Urbancorp, which will create an entity with P3.8 billion in capital.

The SEC is expected to give its nod to the rehabilitation plan upon the plan's formal approval by the PDIC.

Under the plan, Urban Bank, a publicly listed company, will be the surviving entity but the name of the bank will be subsequently changed to Export and Industry Bank.

As part of its commitment to help the bank, PDIC will extend P430 million in concessional financial assistance to EIB. It will also provide a P1.5-billion standby facility to the bank at market rates to cover unanticipated withdrawals.

Around 5,000 depositors and creditors have funds trapped in Urban Bank and Urbancorp amounting to P12 billion. This is on top of the more than P3 billion in combined funds of the two financial institutions' three largest depositors/investors—San Miguel Corp., Petron Corp. and Manila Electric Co.

The three companies have agreed to restructure their combined deposits and placements in the Urban group into long-term loans. Three-quarters of the amount to be restructured would be spread over three years while the remaining 25 percent would be stretched over six years.

The Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas closed Urban Bank on April 26 last year, a day after the bank declared a holiday. The bank suffered from liquidity problems after it spent P4.6 billion to bail out UII, which suffered from massive pre-termination of investments early last year.

Seafarers contribute $1.2B in forex earnings

By Abigail L. Ho

FILIPINO seafarers rake in an estimated $1.2 billion a year in earnings and account for 20 percent of the total mariners in the world.

"But they're actually underrated. Most people think that the big money come from the OFWs (overseas Filipino workers)," Transportation and Communications Secretary Pantaleon Alvarez told the Inquirer.

He added that roughly 250,000 Filipino seafarers were leaving the country yearly making the Philippines the number one supplier of seafarers worldwide.

Alvarez attended the International Maritime Organization (IMO) conference in London late last month. The Philippines holds a seat in the IMO Council.

The IMO Council is composed of 32 member-states representing three specific interest groups: shipping services for category A, international seaborne trade for category B, and maritime transport and navigation for category C.

The Philippines holds one of eight seats in category C giving it the right to veto any recommended legislation or resolution that may be disadvantageous to national interests.

"We have to maintain our membership because we have around 250,000 seafarers yearly who contribute a lot to our economy. We can't neglect our seafarers," Alvarez said.

He added that Filipino seafarers are the most sought after in the world because of their proficiency in the English language.

"In fact, most Norwegian vessels have Filipinos in their crew. There is a pending bill recommended by Norway's transportation department that would allow non-Norwegians to man their vessels because most members of their crew are Filipinos anyway," he said.

The Philippine delegation, headed by Alvarez, has for its members Philippine Coast Guard Commandant Rear Admiral Reuben Lista, Marina administrator Oscar Sevilla and Philippine Ports Authority general manager Al Cusi.

Party-list: A whole new ballgame

QUESTIONS OF POLICIES

Honesto C. General

THE COMMISSION on Elections held hearings for about four months before listing 154 parties and organizations allowed to take part in the party-list elections last May 14.

Now, the Supreme Court, wagging an accusing finger at Comelec, said, " . . . it manifest that the Comelec failed to appreciate fully the clear policy of the law and the Constitution. On the contrary, it seems to have ignored the facet of the party-list system . . . " The Court then told the Comelec "to determine, after summary evidentiary hearings, whether the 154 parties and organizations allowed to participate in the party-list elections comply with the requirements of the law." And for good measure, the Court sent a set of guidelines, a veritable road map so Comelec will not lose its way again. It is a whole new ballgame.

The Court told Comelec to start with the review of the ten front runners: Bayan Muna (BM), Mamayan Ayaw sa Droga (MAD), Association of Philippine Electric Cooperatives (Apec), Veterans Federation Party (VFP), National People's Coalition (NPC), Luzon Farmers Party (Butil), Lakas NUCD-UMDP, Akbayan! Citizen's Action Party (Akbayan), Citizen's Battle Against Graft and Corruption (Cibac) and Buhay Hayaan Yumabong (Buhay).

The guidelines spell trouble. The Court said that each candidate "must show—through its constitution, articles of incorporation, bylaws, history, platform of government and track record that it represents and seeks to uplift marginalized and underrepresented sectors. Verily, majority of its membership should belong to the marginalized and underrepresented. And it must demonstrate that in a conflict of interests, it has chosen or likely to choose the interest of such sector." The sectors are labor, peasant, fisherfolk, urban poor, indigenous cultural communities, elderly, handicapped, women, youth, veterans, overseas workers and professionals.

The Court also said, " . . . It is not enough for the candidate to claim representation of the marginalized and underrepresented, because representation is easy to claim and to feign. The party-list organization or party must factually and truly represent the marginalized and underrepresented constituencies . . ."

The Court then said, " . . . nominees must be Filipino citizens who belong to marginalized and underrepresented sectors, organizations and parties. Surely the interest of the youth cannot be fully represented by a retiree; neither can those of the urban poor or the working class by an industrialist. To allow otherwise is to betray the State policy to give genuine representation to the marginalized and underrepresented."

The major political parties like NPC and Lakas have to prove that they factually and truly represent a sector(s) and their nominees must belong to their respective sectors. Which sectors does Bayan Muna factually and truly represent? Do nominees Satur Ocampo and Crispin Beltran belong to these sectors? These are only two questions that Comelec will have to find answers to.

There are other pitfalls. Who are Cibac? Are we sure Butil are not hacienderos? Is VFP really a veterans' group. If Buhay is a religious group, it should be scratched. If MAD receives a regular cash subsidy from government, it should be thrown out. So should Apec; all electric cooperatives were set up with government money and continue to be effectively run by the National Electrification Administration, which has veto power over every act of a cooperative.

While the front runners should be given top priority in the review, no winner should be proclaimed until Comelec has gone over every last one of the 154 candidates. Only then can Comelec arrive at the final total votes cast in the party-list system. This final figure will be the basis for the 2-percent threshold per seat.

Assuming all front runners are disqualified, the 5,366,306 votes they garnered must be invalidated. Deducting this number from the total votes cast of 9,523,990 leaves a net of 4,157,684. But surely, a large number in the losers' bracket will also be disqualified. What if, after deducting the votes cast for those disqualified under the losers' bracket, the final net figure is only 2,000,000? A party needs only 40,000 votes to win a seat.

If Akbayan (which has enough votes for one seat only under the current counting) is not disqualified, the House will have the terrible problem of having to deal with three Etta Rosaleses. That may not be a bad thing at all.

Japan rating firm . . .

(From page B1)

overlooked the achievements of the Macapagal administration.

Camacho started work at the finance department in early June. The Moody's decision was still made during the time of former Finance Secretary Alberto Romulo, now the executive secretary.

"The Japanese rating supports our current yen bond issues. With a favorable rating, maybe we can borrow cheaper next time," said the finance secretary.

The Japanese rating firm, Camacho said, was internationally accepted and credible particularly in the yen-denominated bond market where the country had issued debt notes in the past.

The government issued yen bonds in 1996 and 2000. A 10 billion yen issue would be due next year, another 30 billion yen due in 2003, and 35 billion yen would mature in 2005.

In a meeting with Japanese Credit Rating general manager Kazuo Imai, Camacho gave his assurance that the government was committed to economic reforms that would ensure stability and sustained growth.

The finance chief said the government focuses on poverty alleviation, fiscal discipline, resolving the peace and order problem, and enhancing global competitiveness.

Despite their negative outlook, both S&P and Moody's credited the Macapagal administration for ending a period of policy drift prevalent during the term of ousted President Estrada. It also commended the country's open and democratic political system.

Standard & Poor's was the first to downgrade its outlook for the Philippines to negative last October following the "Juetengate" scandal that undermined the credibility of the previous administration.

Moody's followed a week later and also revised its outlook to negative from stable. IBCA Fitch had placed the Philippines on a negative watch list days before the Estrada administration was forced to leave Malacañang and President Macapagal took her oath on Jan. 20.

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Miasma at Naia

COCKTALES

By Victor C. Agustin

IT REALLY looks like taipan Lucio Tan received the short end in his expensive support for his idol, Jose Velarde.

The taipan's airport services company, MacroAsia, has joined Miascor and the rest of the local ground handling, in-flight catering, aircraft maintenance and cargo warehousing companies in what promises to be a bitter fight to stop a secret Erap-order giving the German-dominated Piatco monopoly rights over such services at the new Ninoy Aquino International Airport Terminal 3.

But what should concern Juan de la Cruz and the taxpayers is that an alleged Erap-inserted provision in the Piatco contract now guarantees the "attendant liabilities" and any unpaid loans of Piatco despite the fact that the new replacement international airport terminal that Piatco is building is on a B-O-T and unsolicited basis.

(This means that the government is prohibited from providing any government guarantee, subsidy or equity for the completion or financial viability of the project, these concerns being the lookout of the build-operate-transfer proponent.)

A foreign loan signing between Piatco and foreign banks scheduled late last month was scuttled after the MacroAsia consortium started making public noises about the two Erap amendments to the Piatco contract.

How come, you may ask, did Piatco manage to get past Lucio Tan's nose in the Erap administration?

A short and mischievous answer is that the German partner of Piatco, Flughafen Frankfurt Main AG, has the so-called "Z" card up its sleeve.

Other than the "Z" factor (clue: Piatco used to have the Security Bank as partner), the known local partners of Piatco are Henry Go and Jefferson

COCKTALES/ B4

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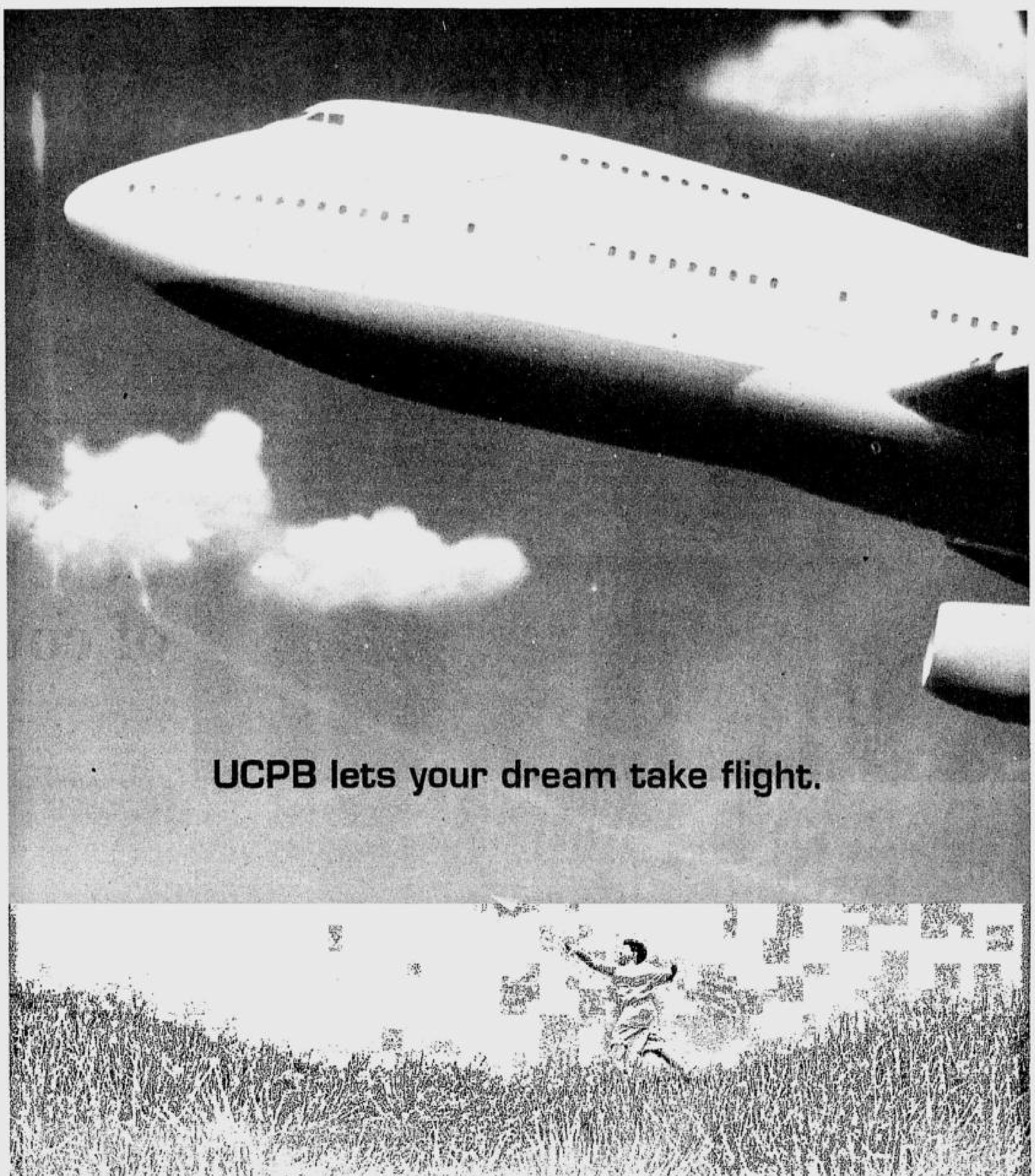

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PSE to seek easing of securities rules

BY DORIS C. DUMLAO

WITH the 12th Congress opening this month, the Philippine Stock Exchange is gearing up to lobby for amendments to the Securities Regulation Code.

As expected, the proposed amendment will focus on three controversial provisions—the broker-dealer, broker-director and tender offer rules under the existing law.

PSE president Ramon T. Garcia said in a briefing Friday that the PSE would bat for the liberalization of these stringent rules, which were an offshoot of the BW Resources Corp. price manipulation scandal.

In the case of the broker-dealer segregation rule, President Macapagal-Arroyo has already issued a statement that she favored the lifting of this provision, which prevented brokers from trading their own accounts.

Garcia said the PSE had already submitted papers to the Securities and Exchange Commission to prove how the dealer trading was helping to perk up market volume. He said that while the dealer accounts were not as big compared to the total market turnover, it was the multiplier effect from the volumes initiated by these accounts that would help attract more volumes to the market.

The dwindling market volume since the start of the year has squeezed the profit margins of brokerage houses, specially foreign-owned ones, which were saddled with higher overhead costs. This year, several foreign brokerage houses have already shut down their Philippine operations, among them Securities 2000 Inc., UOB Securities, Nomura Securities, Orion Squire Capital Inc. and OCBC Securities. All-Asia Securities, long hounded by financial woes, became the latest prey to this shakeout.

In the case of the broker-director rule, Garcia said this could be replaced by tighter disclosure rules. He added that distant relatives should no longer be covered by the rule.

This rule prohibits a brokerage firm from trading the securities of a listed firm if there were persons in this company related by consanguinity and affinity to the fourth degree to officials of the brokerage house.

In the case of the tender offer rule, the PSE will propose that the trigger for the offer should be the takeover of majority control of the company.

SUBIC CLARK ALLIANCE PROJECT

The Subic-Clark Alliance Development (SCAD) program was launched recently with the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding among the participating agencies. The Subic-Clark toll road, the main component of the SCAD program, aims to link the Subic Bay Freeport and the Clark Special Economic Zone. The agreement was signed by Bases Conversion Development Authority (BCDA) chair Rogelio Singson (second from right), SBMA Chair Felicito Payumo (left), Trade Secretary Mar Roxas and CDC president Emmanuel Angeles. The signing was witnessed by President Macapagal-Arroyo.

PCCI to submit list of concerns to GMA

THE PHILIPPINE Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PCCI) is presenting President Macapagal-Arroyo a list of concerns submitted by the regions in their various consultations with local chambers.

The PCCI, in cooperation with Philippines Inc. and the Philippine Exporters Confederation Inc. (Philexport), embarked on three "Briefings on Philippine Business and Economic Prospects" in Cebu City, Davao City and Baguio City. The intention was to cull the issues and concerns of local entrepreneurs with regard to general economic and business conditions in their area as well as present them with various plans and programs of the administration. Early this year, in a meeting with the President, the PCCI leadership led by its president, lawyer Miguel B. Varela, promised a road show of the administration's Cabinet secretaries through its network of local chambers in key cities all over the country.

In the three briefings, the local entrepreneurs were given the opportunity to interact with Cabinet secretaries like Agriculture Secretary Leonardo Montemayor, Economic Planning Secretary Dante Canlas, Trade Secretary Manuel Roxas, Transportation Secretary Pantaleon Alvarez and the presidential assistants for Northern Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao.

In Cebu City, the Cebu Chamber of Commerce and Industry called for decentralization as a way to address the delays of releasing of business-related permits and licenses of the SEC, the BOI and the Philippine Economic Zone Authority. They also cited as examples business transactions with the Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR) and the Bureau of Customs (BOC), which require them to travel to Metro Manila.

The Visayan Chambers likewise asked that government provide them with focused economic and business development support for their export and tourism-related businesses particularly much needed infrastructure like the expansion of the road from north to south of Cebu and a solution to delays in their transshipment of goods which almost always gets stranded in Manila.

Visayan businessmen suggested that the President

PCCI/ B10

POLICY AND DEVELOPMENT FOUNDATION, INC.

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NOTICE OF THE GENERAL MEETING OF MEMBERS OF THE POLICY AND DEVELOPMENT FOUNDATION, INC.
(SEC. NO. ANO92000449)

Gentlemen:

Please be advised that the POLICY AND DEVELOPMENT FOUNDATION, INC. (PDFI) upon the request of Management will have a general meeting of members on August 15, 2001 at 10:00 a.m. to be held at the New Orleans Restaurant, Corinthian Plaza Building, Paseo cor. Legaspi Streets, Legaspi Village, Makati City, Metro Manila.

The Agenda for the said meeting will be as follows:

1. CALL OF MEETING TO ORDER
2. DETERMINATION OF QUORUM
3. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE MEMBERS' MEETING HELD ON JANUARY 20, 2000
4. REPORT TO MEMBERS
5. RATIFICATION OF THE BOARD RESOLUTION ON DISSOLUTION OF THE FOUNDATION
6. OTHER MATTERS
7. ADJOURNMENT

All Members on record as of the end of the business day as of August 3, 2001 shall be entitled to vote in person and/ or by proxy. In case you cannot attend the said meeting, we request you to submit your proxy to the office of the Corporation located at Unit 7B Vernida I Condominium, 120 Amorsolo Street, Legaspi Village, Makati City, c/o Cora Morales, at least two (2) days before the date of the said meeting as provided for in the By-Laws of the Corporation.

Please be guided accordingly.

Very truly yours,

POLICY AND DEVELOPMENT FOUNDATION, INC.

By:

(SGD) CELIA M. REYES
Board Secretary

Cocktales

(From page B3)

Cheng of People's Air Cargo.

According to the grapevine, the MacroAsia consortium has already hired the services of the Accra law firm, which is rushing the filing of a civil case to have the Erap-revised Piatco contract nullified.

The new international airport terminal is scheduled for completion in July next year, and is designed to replace the current Marcos-era terminal as well as the PAL-operated terminal.

Disoriented justices

IN ADDITION to reversing their resolution, the three justices of the Court of Appeals who had mistakenly ordered the release of some P1.2 billion in cash and assets to banker Jose Go have decided to inhibit themselves from hearing the Orient Bank/Ever Gotesco case.

Ponente Bienvenido Reyes has also sworn not to play golf again in the company of Go in Go's Evercrest Batulao, if an account by another newspaper columnist is correct.

"Anything this court does is to be afflicted by a cloud of suspicion," Reyes and fellow justices Eubulo Verzola and Jose Sabio Jr. said, explaining their decision to inhibit. "It is only another division of this court that can assure parties the balm of an impartial mind."

For those who missed Friday's column, Reyes signed a resolution lifting the writ of attachment to the P1.2-billion fortune of Go without hearing the comment/opposition of the Bangko Sentral, which is suing Go in various criminal cases and trying to recover the P8 billion in government funds that the central bank extended before Orient Bank collapsed.

At least the three appellate justices have the decency to own up to their "unintentional departure from accuracy in procedure."

One Supreme Court justice we know still insisted on being a ponente of a high-profile case despite the sworn declarations of two waiters of a golf club that they saw the justice having a no-no of a dinner with one of the litigants.

Short takes

- JOEY Bermudez, senior executive vice president of PSBank, is moving over to Chinatrust as president, vice William Go who has retired and accepted a less stressful role as Chinatrust vice chair.
- SECURITIES analyst and former Metro Pacific spokesperson Corazon Guidote is crossing over to the public sector to head a new Investment Relations Office of the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas. Although technically under the central bank, the new office will actually serve the investment relation needs of the departments of finance and trade, as well.
- IN reaction to Monday's item about the alleged donation of sandwiches to Edsa III rallyists, the Club Filipino sent a letter defending their president emeritus, Erap tax adviser Fortunato Aguas, saying that the pan de sal, roast turkey and red wine that may have been taken by Aguas from the club have all been charged to the personal account of Aguas.

Heard through the grapevine

WHEELER-DEALER Ernest Escaler is brokering the talks between Justice Secretary Hernando Perez and Mark Jimenez, arranging secret meetings between the two.

A former shoe salesman in New York, Escaler's next target is an appointment to the boards of the sequestered cash cows Philcomsat/POTC.

(Cocktales may be reached by e-mail at cocktales_pdi@yahoo.com or at cocktales_pdi@hotmail.com.)

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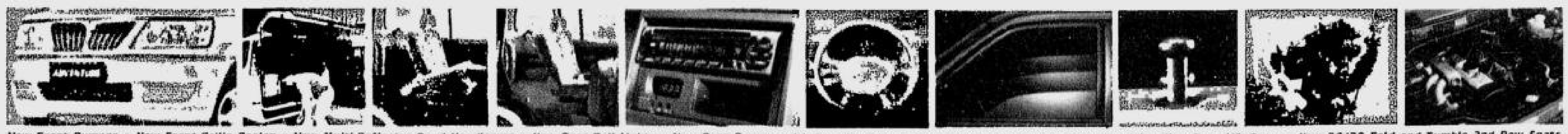

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Local stocks seen tracking movement of peso this week

MARKET PLAY

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE LOCAL stock market is likely to firm up this week as investors start sifting through the rubble and pick up bargain issues.

While the recent depreciation of the peso soured interest in local stocks, analysts said the main-share Philippine Stock Exchange composite index might be bound for some upward correction this week.

Mercantile Securities analyst Warren Chua said: "Basically, the market might start to consolidate before making a final push upward."

The Phisix dipped by more than 13 points to close last week at 1,396.92, weighed down by the losses in the commercial-industrial and property counters.

Friday's fall, Chua said, was confusing because the peso, whose sharp depreciation had dragged the market down, closed stronger that day.

"It's probably because of the typhoons. In the past, whenever there's a typhoon, the market volume goes down," Chua said.

"This week, it might probably consolidate first but the downside is not tremendous. Monday and Tuesday might still be down but after that, the market might tend to move up although volume might still be low—around P500 million," he said.

Eagle Equities president Joseph Roxas also said the market appeared ready for a rebound this week following the recovery of the peso last Friday.

"There always has to be a correction somewhere," he said.

2tradeasia.com also said that while the peso volatility might still capture a lot of attention this week, there might be some positioning in anticipation of some positive surprises on the local political front. Focus is expected to shift to the arraignment tomorrow of former leader Joseph Estrada on plunder charges.

"Some are still apprehensive about the general political picture since parties opposed to President Macapagal-Arroyo's leadership might take advantage of the situation to wreak havoc or confuse the electorate. In our view, the President's firm grip on the situation should cap the local currency's further descent beyond P53:US$1," 2tradeasia.com said.

"In equities trading, this might limit aggressive ascents beyond 1,430-1,450 unless fund managers become receptive to bold measures ,which her administration might take within the week," it said.

ING Barings Securities Philippines managing director Cesar Luis Bate, on the other hand, said: "The broader market is still dependent on the peso movement. The market is in need of good news, especially of positive development in the South."

The prolonged hostage-taking crisis by terrorist group Abu Sayyaf is again causing jitters specially among foreign investors.

Bate said he was not as optimistic as others that the peso would be able to sustain the late-week recovery seen last week.

"Clearly there is less supply and more demand," he said.

Bate said the market's technical support at 1,340 appeared resilient enough but bottom picking would still be very selective.

Meanwhile, the peso hit a low of 53.10 to $1 Wednesday last week on various reports ranging from ransom payments being plowed into Abu Sayyaf's coffers. However, the local currency recovered to 52.89:$1 toward the week's close.

"A gradual reversal of the market's dismal trend will ensue once main headlines reverse from the political scenario at home toward significant economic matters. This should help entice investors to re-consider investing in the country once the peace-and-order problem has been firmly resolved and when details on government's privatization drive are announced. Meanwhile, should you position ahead of this trend or only when the market recovers? In our view, the preferred option is to position ahead of an expected rebound," 2tradeasia.com said.

Chua, for his part, said blue chips like Bank of the Philippine Islands, Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co., Meralco, Ayala Corp., Ayala Land Inc. and SM Prime Holdings Inc. would continue to dominate market trading this week.

"Of course there'll be some volume for San Miguel Corp. or PLDT but the only way for these issues to move up is to increase volume and that will happen only when the market hears good news," Chua said.

Chua also said the Lopezes' Benpres Holdings Corp. might continue to attract interest this week.

"Benpres has benefited because of the announcement that First Philippine Holdings will sell a portion of its stake to a foreign group," Chua said.

Benpres' 15-percent gain last week after management announced plans of a financial restructuring helped cushion the fall of the main index.

2tradeasia.com said the Phisix's immediate support was at 1,380 while resistance was at 1,420.

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3.	BAGUIO COUNTRY CLUB	850,000.00	700,000.00
4.	CALATAGAN GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB "A"	110,000.00	-
5.	CANLUBANG GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB	-	900,000.00
6.	CAMP JOHN HAY GOLF CLUB	400,000.00	350,000.00
7.	CAPITOL HILLS GOLF CLUB	-	125,000.00
8.	CELEBRITY SPORTS CLUB	please call	-
9.	COUNTRY CLUB AT TAGAYTAY HIGHLANDS	450,000.00	-
10.	EAGLERIDGE GOLF CLUB "A"	-	400,000.00
11.	EAGLERIDGE GOLF CLUB "B"	550,000.00	-
12.	MAKATI SPORTS CLUB "A"	450,000.00	-
13.	MANILA POLO CLUB	3,800,000.00	3,500,000.00
14.	MANILA GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB (individual)	please call	-
15.	MANILA SOUTHWOODS GOLF CLUB "A"	850,000.00	700,000.00
16.	MANILA SOUTHWOODS GOLF CLUB "B"	-	900,000.00
17.	MONTEMAR BEACH CLUB	30,000.00	-
18.	MT. MALARAYAT "B"	550,000.00	450,000.00
19.	ORCHARD GOLF CLUB "A"	-	250,000.00
20.	PHIL. COLUMBIAN ASSOCIATION	-	85,000.00
21.	QUEZON CITY SPORTS CLUB	240,000.00	-
22.	RIVIERA GOLF CLUB "B"	250,000.00	-
23.	STA. ELENA GOLF CLUB "A"	2,000,000.00	
24.	SHERWOOD HILLS "B"	350,000.00	
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Calatagan Golf Club "A"	-	115,000
Calatagan Golf Club "B"	-	150,000
Camp John Hay	-	350,000
Canlubang	850,000	900,000
Canyonwoods	-	350,000
Capitol Hills	130,000	140,000
Cebu Country Club	1,900,000	2,000,000
Celebrity Sports Club	-	Please Call
Club Filipino	-	330,000
Eagle Ridge "A"/"B"/"C"	Please Call	Please Call
Eastridge "A"	Please Call	Please Call
Evercrest "A"	-	110,000
Forest Hills "A"	-	235,000
Forest Hills "B"	-	260,000
Forest Hills "C"	-	400,000
Makati Sports Club "A"	375,000	400,000
Makati Sports Club "B"	-	450,000
Manila Golf (Corporate)	-	17,500,000
Manila Golf (Individual)	14,500,000	-
Manila Polo	3,200,000	3,500,000
Manila Southwoods "A"	750,000	800,000
Manila Southwoods "B"	900,000	950,000
Metropolitan Club "A"	160,000	-
Metropolitan Club "B"		230,000
Mimosa Golf & Country Club (Corporate)	-	350,000
Montemar (Individual)	Please Call	-
Mt. Malarayat	300,000	400,000
Orchard Golf Club "A"	-	280,000
Orchard Golf Club "B"	-	380,000
Orchard Golf Club "C"	-	500,000
Philippine Columbian	85,000	-
Pueblo de Oro "A"/"B"/"C"	-	Please Call
Puerto Azul	160,000	220,000
Quezon City Sports Club	-	230,000
Riviera Golf & Country Club "A"	-	200,000
Royale Tagaytay "A/B/C"	Please Call	Please Call
Sherwood Hills "A"	-	220,000
Sta. Elena "A"	1,700,000	2,000,000
Sta. Elena "B"	2,200,000	-
Subic Bay Yacht (Corporate)	-	550,000
Subic Bay Yacht (Individual)	-	250,000
Tagaytay Country Club	380,000	450,000
Tagaytay Highlands	-	1,100,000
Tagaytay Midlands	800,000	850,000
Valle Verde (Individual)	180,000	200,000
Valley Golf	270,000	325,000
Wack-Wack Golf Club	8,200,000	8,500,000

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Canlubang	70,000	Riviera "A"	15,000
Eagleridge	30,000	Sta. Elena	70,000
Eastridge "A"	20,000	Tagaytay CC	30,000
Forest Hills	30,000	Tagaytay Golf	65,000
Manila Southwoods	40,000	Tivoli Royale	20,000
Makati Sports "A"	35,000	Valley Golf	20,000
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PSE rejects changes to deal giving it a single trading floor

By E. Torrijos
and D. Dumlao

A PLAN to place the Makati and Ortigas trading floors of the Philippine Stock Exchange under one roof at the Fort Bonifacio Global City by 2004 is standing on shaky ground.

In a letter sent Thursday, the PSE rejected property developer Metro Pacific Corp.'s request to amend an agreement they signed in February 1999 that would have given the country's bourse a common trading floor.

Stock trading is currently done on separate trading floors at the Tower One building in Makati and Tektite towers at the Ortigas commercial center in Pasig.

In February 1999, Metro Pacific, local unit of Hong Kong's First Pacific Co. Ltd., offered to donate a 12,000-square-meter lot and constructed two connected buildings in the Big Delta area of Fort Bonifacio that would unite the PSE's trading floors by 2004.

Metro Pacific also offered to provide 40,000 square meters for the offices of the PSE's brokers.

The stock exchange, in turn, agreed to transfer its trading floors to the Fort Bonifacio site and use it as its headquarters for at least 10 years.

Last month, however, Fort Bonifacio Development Corp. vice president Carlos Rufino asked the PSE to consider amending the agreement, citing slumping property prices and Metro Pacific's deteriorating finances.

FBDC is part of the Metro Pacific group developing Fort Bonifacio, a former military base, as an alternative commercial site to the Ayala business district in Makati.

Metro Pacific president Ricardo Pascua said Metro Pacific was sticking to its commitments, but it wanted to review its agreement with the PSE in light of the current condition of the local property sector and Metro Pacific's financial health.

Metro Pacific is currently saddled with P10.5 billion in debts. It is trying to dispose of some assets to pursue the development of Fort Bonifacio. The company has announced plans to bid out 18.9 hectares in its northern central business district this September to free up more resources for the development of the rest of Fort Bonifacio.

The PSE, however, is insisting that construction of its promised Fort Bonifacio home commence this year and that Metro Pacific deliver on its commitments by 2004.

In its letter to Pascua, the PSE building committee said opening negotiations at this time, especially along the lines suggested by Metro Pacific, would mean a return to the drawing board.

The committee said it would "negate all work and resources that we have put in this matter for the past three years, not to mention that, with our agreement, we have foregone all opportunities to consider other parties who have likewise offered to provide our relocation requirement."

"It looks like the ball is back to Metro Pacific," PSE president Ramon Garcia said.

Under the original terms of their agreement, Metro Pacific offered to donate properties near its Capital Place project, a development that stretched across four interlocking city blocks joined by a concourse that would offer office, retail, residential and hotel space.

Garcia said despite their disagreement, Metro Pacific and the PSE would settle their dispute "in a mature way," and said there was no need to bring the matter to court.

The stock exchange was aware of Metro Pacific's tight financial situation, he said.

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CLUBS	ASKED Price
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CAPITOL HILLS	135,000
CC @ TAGAYTAY	470,000
CLUB FILIPINO	280,000
MAKATI SPORTS "A"/"B"	.43M/.45M
MANILA GOLF (CORP.)	17,500,000
MANILA SOUTHWOODS "A"	850,000
MANILA POLO CLUB	4,000,000
MIMOSA (CORP.)	390,000
MT. MALARAYAT "A"	500,000
ORCHARD "A"/"B"/"C"	.28M/.00M/.65M
RIVIERA "A" / "B"	.25 M/.425 M
STA. ELENA "A"	1,990,000
SUBIC BAY YACHT (CORP)	550,000
TAGAYTAY MIDLANDS	820,000

Share Swapping: Please Call

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ALABANG "A"	1,800,000
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CELEBRITY CLUB	200,000
EAGLERIDGE "B"	300,000
MANILA GOLF (CORP.)	16,250,000
MANILA POLO CLUB	3,500,000
MANILA SOUTHWOODS "A"	700,000
MANILA SOUTHWOODS "B"	900,000
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CC at Tagaytay Highland	415,000
Eagle Ridge A/B/C	400/550
Evercrest	100,000
Fontana	Please call
Forest Hills "A"/B/C	200/280/400
Manila Golf (Indv.)/Corp	14.5M/17.5M
Manila Polo	3.5M
Manila Southwoods "A"/B	800,000/930,000
Makati Sports "A"/B	400/450,000
Mimosa	Please call
Mt. Malarayat "A"/C	395,000
Orchard "A"/B/C	260/350/500
Puerto Azul	160,000
Quezon City Sports	235,000
Riviera A/B/C	225/250/500
Royale Tagaytay/Rockwell/Lusita	Please call
Sta. Elena A/B	1.85/2.18M
Sherwood	220,000
Subic Yacht (Indv.) & Corp	250/500
Tagaytay Midlands	820,000
Tagaytay HighLand Golf	950,000
Tagaytay Highland Club	415,000
Valle Verde CC	190,000
Valley Golf	300,000
Wack Wack	8,277,000

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Alabang A/B	1.8M/2.150M
Alta Vista	Please call
Baguio Country Club	760,000
Calatagan A	105,000
Canlubang Golf	880,000
Canyon Woods	240,000
Capitol Hills	135,000
Celebrity	205,000
CC at Tagaytay Highland	410,000
Eagle Ridge A/B/C	400/530/590
Evercrest	100,000
Forest Hill "A" / B / C	230/250/400
Manila Golf (Indv.)/Corp.	Please call
Manila Polo	3.5M
Manila Southwoods "A"/B	800/900
Mt. Malarayat "A"/C	395/Please call
Orchard "A"/B/C	250/350/500
Puerto Azul	Please call
Quezon City Sports	235,000
Riviera "A"/B/C	225/250/500
Sta. Elena A/B	Please call
Tagaytay Midlands	820,000
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Philippine Stock Exchange

(As of Friday, July 6, 2001)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Asiatrust Dev. Bank Inc.	5.1	5.1	5.1	5.1	13,000
Banco Filipino Sav & Mort	100	100	100	100	500
Bank of the Phil. Islands	73	73	72	72	46,500
China Banking Corp.	670	670	665	670	1,130
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	35.5	36	35.5	36	97,000
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	206	208	205	206	70,880
Philippine National Bank	46	46	46	46	3,000
Phil. Savings Bank	28.5	28.5	28.5	28.5	1,200
Security Bank Corp.	20.5	21	20.5	21	43,500
FINANCIAL SERVICE					
First Metro Invest. Corp.	249	250	249	250	140
Manulife Financial Corp.	1430	1440	1430	1440	1,250
Sun Life Financial Serv.	1235	1240	1230	1235	5,050
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	39.5	39.5	39.5	39.5	200
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	0.51	0.51	0.51	0.51	1,100,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	670	670	670	670	110
Island Info and Tech Inc.	0.039	0.044	0.039	0.044	21,600,000
Liberty Telecoms Holdings	0.48	0.48	0.48	0.48	30,160,000
Piltel	0.58	0.58	0.58	0.58	50,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	710	710	710	710	6,910
Philweb.Com Inc.	0.038	0.038	0.036	0.037	68,100,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	38	38.5	38	38.5	23,300
Manila Electric Co. B	53.5	53.5	53.5	53.5	11,100
Petron Corp.	2.12	2.14	2.08	2.1	3,943,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Asian Terminals Inc.	1.28	1.28	1.28	1.28	100,000
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	2.5	2.6	2.48	2.55	12,000,000
Lorenzo Shipping Corp.	0.3	0.33	0.3	0.33	130,000
Negros Navigation Co. Inc.	0.15	0.15	0.15	0.15	110,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Engineering Equip. Inc.	0.34	0.34	0.34	0.34	810,000
Union Cement Corp.	1.18	1.18	1.18	1.18	550,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Cosmos Bottling Corp.	4.35	4.35	4.35	4.35	385,000
Jollibee Foods Corp.	13.5	13.75	13.5	13.5	139,700
Liberty Flour Mills Inc.	18	18	18	18	41,000
La Tondeña Distillers Inc.	26.5	26.5	26	26.5	310,000
RFM Corp.	1.82	1.82	1.72	1.74	4,789,000
San Miguel Corp. A	41	41	40.5	40.5	18,200
San Miguel Corp. B	47	47.5	47	47	120,500
Vitarich Corp.	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	100,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Abacus Con Res & Hdg A	0.85	0.9	0.85	0.87	540,000
Abacus Con Res & Hdg B	0.86	0.9	0.86	0.87	100,000
Ayala Corp.	6.9	6.9	6.9	6.9	68,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	1.44	1.48	1.44	1.46	370,000
Alliance Global Group Inc.	11	11.25	10.75	11	1,700
Ajo.Net Holdings Inc.	1.2	1.22	1.18	1.2	1,030,000
A. Soriano Corp.	0.52	0.52	0.52	0.52	30,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.006	0.0065	0.006	0.0065	70,000,000
ATN Holdings Inc.	2.2	2.2	2.2	2.2	10,000
Balabac Resources & Hldgs.	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	180,000
Boulevard Holdings Inc.	0.21	0.21	0.21	0.21	100,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	1.86	1.92	1.86	1.88	19,479,000
Ever-Gotesco Resources	0.05	0.05	0.05	0.05	100,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	1	1	1	1	20,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	28.5	31.5	28.5	31.5	1,566,700
Forum Pacific Inc.	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	200,000
Global Equities Inc.	0.21	0.21	0.21	0.21	370,000
Ionics Inc.	11	11	11	11	5,000
Ipeople Inc.	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1	20,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	2.08	2.08	2.08	2.08	2,000
Marsteel Cons. Inc. B	0.015	0.015	0.015	0.015	400,000
Megaworld Corp.	0.73	0.75	0.73	0.75	80,000
Multitech Inv. Corp.	0.28	0.28	0.28	0.28	20,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.48	0.48	0.47	0.47	1,530,000
Solid Group Inc.	0.47	0.47	0.47	0.47	130,000
Seafront Resources Corp.	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	10,000
Tanduay Holdings Inc.	5.3	5.3	5.3	5.3	5,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.27	0.28	0.27	0.28	880,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0.22	0.24	0.22	0.22	1,100,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Corro-Coat Inc.	1.44	1.44	1.44	1.44	10,000
Music Corp.	1.84	1.84	1.84	1.84	6,000
Mabuhay Vinyl Corp.	0.66	0.66	0.66	0.66	20,000
Central Azucar Don Pedro	0.88	0.88	0.85	0.85	290,000
SPI Technologies Inc.	15.25	15.25	15.25	15.25	125,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICE					
Belle Corp.	0.53	0.53	0.5	0.52	3,260,000
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	0.55	0.55	0.54	0.54	1,150,000
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	0.45	0.46	0.45	0.46	330,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (Pdr)	40.5	40.5	40	40.5	205,900
Equitable PCI Bank-War	1.9	2	1.9	2	118,000
Jollibee Warrants	13.5	13.5	13.5	13.5	10,000
Omico Corp. Warrant	0.0026	0.0028	0.0026	0.0028	249,000,000
PNB Warrants	12	12	12	12	1,000
PLDT (10% Pref.) Series U	10.5	10.5	10.25	10.25	1,100
PLDT (10% Pref) Series V	10.5	10.5	10.25	10.25	3,300
PLDT (10% Pref) Series Z	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	1,000
PLDT 10% Pref Series Aa	10.25	10.5	10.25	10.5	3,700
Philweb.Com Inc.-Warrants	0.026	0.026	0.025	0.025	24,400,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	5.2	5.2	5.1	5.1	607,000
Araneta Properties Inc.	0.25	0.26	0.25	0.25	630,000
C & P Homes Inc.	0.27	0.27	0.27	0.27	800,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.29	0.29	0.29	0.29	150,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.31	0.31	0.31	0.31	4,970,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	2.2	2.2	2.18	2.18	902,000
Kuok Phil. Properties	0.145	0.145	0.14	0.14	4,440,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc.	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	260,000
SM Development Corp.	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	20,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	6.3	6.3	6.2	6.2	3,892,000
Universal Rightfield Prop.	0.08	0.08	0.08	0.08	1,100,000
Urbancorp Realty Dev. Inc.	0.25	0.31	0.25	0.31	650,000
MINING					
Apex Mining Co. Inc. A	0.006	0.0065	0.006	0.0065	24,000,000
Apex Mining Co. Inc B	0.006	0.0065	0.006	0.0065	32,000,000
Atlas Cons. Min & Dev't	1.8	2	1.8	2	123,000
Dizon Copper Silver Mines	2.55	2.55	2.5	2.5	6,000
Itogon-Suyoc Mines A	0.042	0.044	0.04	0.041	69,600,000
Itogon-Suyoc Mines B	0.043	0.043	0.043	0.043	200,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co B	0.185	0.185	0.185	0.185	200,000
Omico Corp.	0.0042	0.005	0.0042	0.005	490,000,000
Polar Mines & Dev't Corp.	0.024	0.026	0.024	0.026	227,700,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	0.36	0.36	0.36	0.36	460,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	0.37	0.37	0.36	0.37	2,050,000
United Paragon Mining Co.	0.18	0.18	0.18	0.18	140,000
OIL					
Imperial Res.	0.021	0.025	0.021	0.024	122,800,000
Interport Res.	0.0055	0.0055	0.0055	0.0055	6,000,000
Interport Res. B	0.0055	0.0055	0.0055	0.0055	2,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.0046	0.0046	0.0044	0.0044	11,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.0046	0.0046	0.0046	0.0046	3,000,000
The Philodrill Corp. B	0.22	0.22	0.22	0.22	10,000
Pacifica	0.017	0.018	0.017	0.017	127,400,000

	SHARES	VALUE (P)
Banks & Fin Svc	283,150	31,452,450.00
Comm'l & Ind'l	521,800,420	196,883,310.00
PRO	18,421,000	32,283,760.00
Mining	846,479,000	12,594,400.00
OIL	272,210,000	5,274,200.00
GRAND TOTALS:	1,659,193,570	278,488,120.00

AVERAGES		
Banks & Fin Svc	573.06	DOWN 7.01
Comm'l & Ind'l	1,979.81	DOWN 4.07
PRO	521.08	DOWN 12.44
Mining	1,335.64	DOWN 3.41
OIL	1.61	UP 0.09
All Shares Index	795.47	DOWN 5.49
Composite	1,396.92	DOWN 5.31

NO. OF ADVANCES: 38; NO. OF DECLINES: 31; NO. OF UNCHANGED: 46;
NO. OF TRADED ISSUES: 115; NO. OF TRADES: 2,770

CURRENCIES

July 6, 2001

Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Foreign currency in US$	Foreign currency in Peso
United States	Dollar	1.194743	1.000000	52.9650
Japan	Yen	0.009507	0.007957	0.4214
United Kingdom	Pound	1.674910	1.401900	74.2516
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.153182	0.128213	6.7908
Switzerland	Franc	0.656958	0.549874	29.1241
Canada	Dollar	0.789339	0.660677	34.9928
Singapore	Dollar	0.654833	0.548095	29.0299
Australia	Dollar	0.616355	0.515889	27.3241
Bahrain	Dinar	3.169249	2.652661	140.4982
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.318590	0.266660	14.1236
Brunei	Dollar	0.653759	0.547196	28.9822
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000105	0.000088	0.0047
Thailand	Baht	0.026252	0.021973	1.1638
UAE	Dirham	0.325295	0.272272	14.4209
Korea	Won	0.000924	0.000773	0.0409
Euro	Euro	1.000000	0.837000	44.3317
Germany	Mark	0.511292	0.427951	22.6664
France	Franc	0.152450	0.127600	6.7583
Netherlands	Guilder	0.453780	0.379814	20.1168
Austria	Schilling	0.072673	0.060827	3.2217
Belgium	Franc	0.024790	0.020749	1.0990
Italy	Lire	0.000516	0.000432	0.0229
Finland	Markka	0.168188	0.140773	7.4560
Portugal	Escudo	0.004988	0.004175	0.2211
Spain	Peseta	0.006010	0.00503	0.2664
Luxembourg	Franc	0.024790	0.020749	1.0990
Ireland	Punt	1.269738	1:062771	56.2897

Confidence building: Right and wrong

ON THE MONEY
John Mangun

THE CURRENT buzzword is "confidence." And thinking about the idea of "confidence," you realize that it is a two-edged sword in that it is both an external and an internal perception. You see, to have confidence in someone else is to be able to rely on him. To have confidence in your self is to be self-reliant, meaning that you believe you can get the job done well.

I got to think about all the "confidence building" that the administration is trying to do. When a group of foreign businessmen gets its picture taken at Malacañang, that is supposed to be positive. Having your picture taken with the President doesn't necessarily mean you have confidence in the Philippines. And not wanting to be a rude guest, some meaningless, harmless statement comes from the foreigner as he leaves for Naia. You never see them taking out a checkbook to leave a few million dollars behind.

However, I came across a group of "foreigners" who were not invited to Malacañang to have a picture that may have done more to build external confidence in Philippines than any group of Malacañang guests.

For the last 12 years, a group of Filipino-American teachers, principals and educators have visited the country. Last week, about 20 came from Seattle, Washington. They came, at DECS invitation, to give presentations about the latest teaching techniques. They interact with local teachers and observe classes.

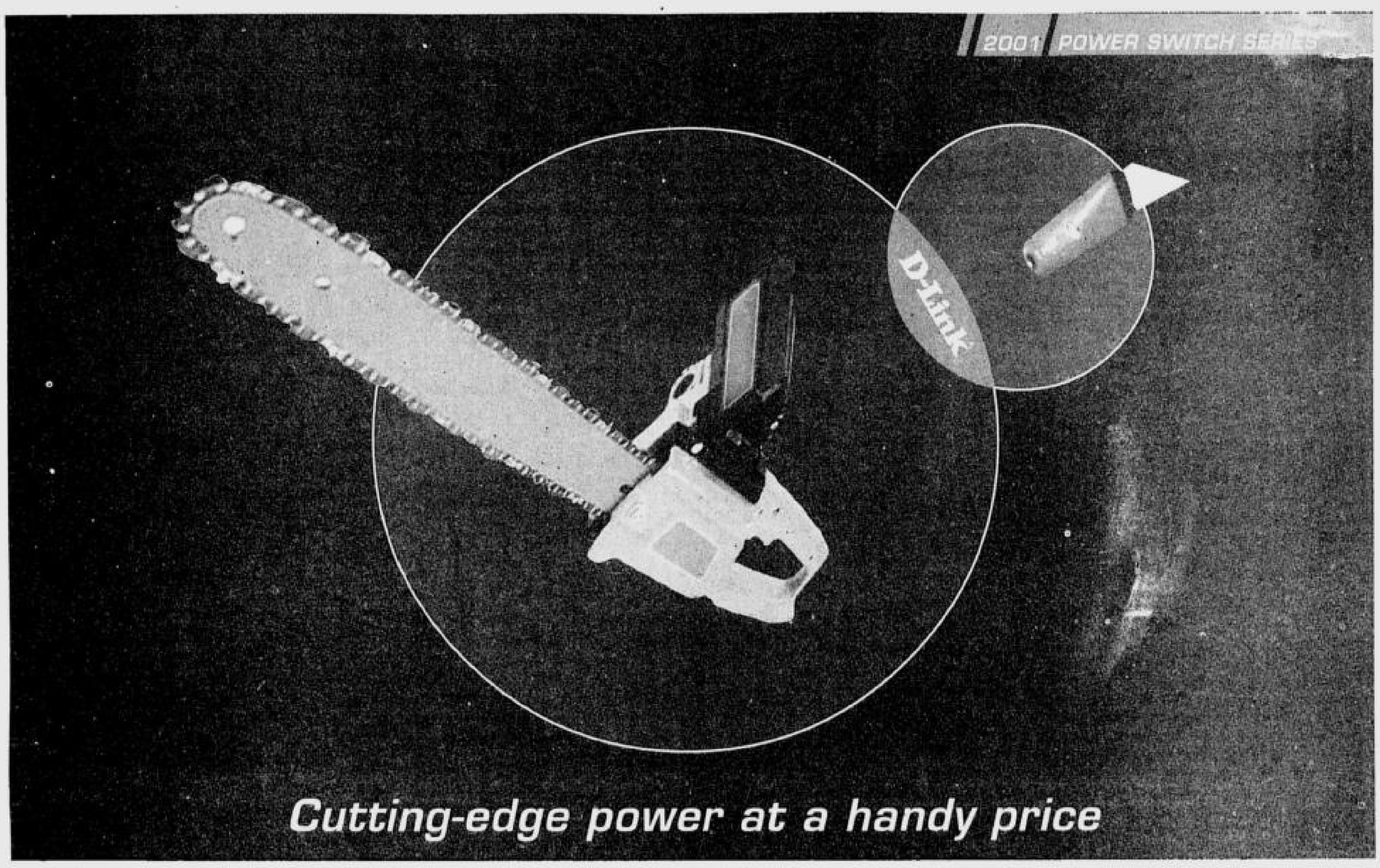
Two schools on the itinerary were Makati High School and Makati Elementary. Granted, these two schools are in the top caliber of our public school system but what these Fil-Ams said was interesting. In talking to the principal of Makati Elementary, Mrs. Leticia Rosales, I found out that the guests were surprised. After sharing with the local teachers and then observing the classes, they realized that the techniques being used locally to teach reading are about the same as in the US. That is good to know.

But the key to their confidence and our "building" is that they were also surprised to see that things were hardly as bad as they expected from what they hear from the foreign media. As they return to the US, they will be doing the confidence building about the Philippines that the administration is so concerned about. But you did not see the President taking pictures with these people because, well, they are not "foreign investors."

It is hard for others to have confidence if you have little confidence in yourself. For example, we have almost given up on agricultural self-reliance. It is easier to import rice from Thailand, even in reduced quantities. But as I told you a few weeks ago, we have local Filipinos who can help solve the problem. A Mr. Ignacio "S," a scientist, has developed a technology using a special kind of "dirt" called zeolite. He combines it in a special way with organic or even chemical fertilizer and the fertilizer works significantly better, sometimes doubling production. There are different kinds of zeolites but we have the perfect type to do the job and a large quantity is found an hour's drive from Manila. Recently, scientists in the US announced an "agricultural breakthrough" using the basic idea that Mr. "S" developed. Mr. "S" has been producing it commercially for several years but needs P250 million to produce it on a large scale. There is plenty of government money for debt service, losing government corporations and dining foreign investors, but not enough to help put us on the road to feeding ourselves.

One definite way not to build confidence is to listen to the Bangko Sentral and the administration talk about the falling peso. First, it fell because of an ineffective President, and then because of "political uncertainties," followed by "regional currency weakness," and now it is because of "free market forces." The only thing that is clear is that the government and the Bangko Sentral have stated that they have no significant input, let alone control over what the peso does. And that is absolute nonsense. Let me give you a comparison.

CONFIDENCE/ B8



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5 out of 5 stars from Games First (2001)	8.5 out of 10 Rating in an Excellent Review from OnePC.netNET (28 February 2000)	CNET Electronics Posts Excellent Review	Target PC Value Award (27 August 2000)	Electic Tech Hot Product (28 May 2000)	Hardware Zone Four Star (27 June 2000)	Excellent rating of 7.95 out of 10 from Network World (February 2001)	Hardware Masters Editor's Pick Award (2000)	PC Magazine Editor's Choice Award (February 2001)	Tech Extreme Editor's Choice Award (5 March 2001)	Aware Award from Aware Magazine (2001)	"Very Good" Rating Test Center Analysis in Info World (February 2000)

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(Source: IDC Asia Pacific 2000)

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Confidence building: Right and wrong

(From page B7)

Interest rates are influenced by all the factors mentioned above. But the government in effect determines the basic interest rates for the economy. They do this by selling treasury bills. They set that rate. If you want to loan to the government at their rate, ok. If not, go someplace else. If the banks want a higher rate, the Department of Finance rejects the offers. The interest rate that the banks charge is based on the treasury bill rate. But the opposite is true regarding the currency. The BSP bases its dollar-peso rate on what the banks do. The same system can work for the peso if the BSP will do its job by being the primary buyer and seller of dollars and pesos as I outlined last week.

For example, let's say this morning the BSP decides to sell dollars at 50 to 1. If you need the dollars to import something, buy from the BSP. To eliminate speculation, the BSP requires proper documentation of your legitimate, physical need for dollars. If you don't want to sell dollars to the BSP at 50, then find somebody to buy them at a higher price. BSP worries about a potential dollar shortage because holders (like exporters) won't convert. But then free market forces take hold. If the holders (or hoarders) can't find buyers above the BSP rate, there is a surplus of dollars being held and they will eventually come down to the BSP price. And this is the perfect time because there is no interest rate advantage in holding dollars as the Federal Reserve reduces dollar interest rates. The only reason to hold dollars is you think the peso will depreciate. And if the government would show some financial and political will by properly taxing dollar deposits, there would be even less reason to keep funds in dollars.

But we do not have the confidence to believe we can feed ourselves. We do not have the confidence that we can have a stable, realistically priced currency. We do not have the confidence that we can economically advance without foreign money. And lack of self-confidence leads to a lack of action. And nobody can have confidence in someone who sits there and doesn't do enough to help himself.

(John Mangun can be reached at 636-1121 to 35, Fax No. 634-2349 or e-mail at johnmangun@yahoo.com.)

BONIFACIO
LAND CORPORATION

INVITATION TO PREQUALIFY
AND SUBMIT PROPOSALS

Bonifacio Land Corporation (BLC) through the Fort Bonifacio Development Corporation (FBDC) is inviting all interested parties to prequalify and submit proposals for the acquisition of its interest in New Company (Newco), a realty company to be formed within the Bonifacio Global City, Taguig, Metro Manila, Philippines.

All interested parties are requested to submit a Letter of Intent to BLC, a signed Confidentiality Agreement and a non-refundable fee of Pesos: Ten Thousand (Php 10,000.00) payable to FBDC before obtaining the Memorandum. The Memorandum is available until 31 July 2001 from the FBDC office, Building A, Bonifacio Centre, Bonifacio Global City, Taguig, Metro Manila, Philippines.

For more information on the Bonifacio Global City project, visit *www.fbglobalcity.com* or e-mail us at *disposition@fbglobalcity.com*.

BLC reserves the right to amend, modify, expand, reduce or adjust any portion or provision of the Program, Concept, terms, conditions and guidelines prior to the bidding date, as well as reject any or all proposals, to waive deficiencies therein, without assuming any obligation whatsoever as to expenses or losses that interested proponents may incur in the preparation of their proposals.

(Sgd.) **RICARDO S. PASCUA**
Chairman

Bangko Sentral okays $500-M PLDT bond float

By Clarissa S. Batino

TELECOM giant PLDT was given the green light by the policy-making Monetary Board of the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas to issue at least $500 million in foreign bonds.

"We have approved their borrowing in principle," said BSP Governor Rafael Buenaventura, but declined to disclose the exact amount that PLDT intends to borrow from abroad.

Market sources said PLDT wanted to raise between $500 million and $600 million through a foreign bond offering.

Buenaventura said the BSP preferred that PLDT or any other borrower negotiate a longer term maturity for their flotation to prevent the country's debt profile from bunching up in the short-term.

The BSP chief also welcomed the deal sealed by the national government last Friday when it mandated Credit Suisse First Boston to handle a $500-million global bond issue with a 10-year maturity.

"The deal was very encouraging because the fact that we were able to borrow at 10 years shows confidence in the Philippines. I was told the pricing was good relative to other emerging markets," the central bank governor said.

Buenaventura said the approval for both the national government and PLDT's borrowings was still conditional and final consent would depend on the details of the transaction.

The proceeds of the borrowings worth a combined $1 billion are expected to flow into the system in a month's time. The money should boost the peso as well as the BSP's dollar reserves.

"The upcoming bond issue of the national government had cured a lot of problems. It has addressed our concerns on the maturity and would also help us in generating inflow to help the peso," Buenaventura added.

The BSP had earlier approved a planned $300-$500 million borrowing of National Power Corp. to refinance maturing debts.

But the power firm's schedule was pushed back to a later date this year to give the national government enough room to negotiate its borrowings.

Any borrower, whether government or private, needs to secure the approval of the BSP's policy-making Monetary Board to ensure that the exercise would not conflict with any policy.

In this case, Buenaventura said monetary authorities need to ensure that there is no bunching up in the country's debt repayments. "The longer the maturity is, the better," he quipped.

Aside from the maturity period, the BSP also monitors the level of foreign borrowings to ensure that it would not exceed the limits it had agreed with the International Monetary Fund in the course of the post-program monitoring of the country's economic performance.

Buenaventura said the country still has enough room to borrow from foreign lenders.

Also, the BSP chief said there was a window of opportunity for emerging markets like the Philippines to tap the foreign financial sector now for funds given an improving investors' appetite.

BSP, Finance expect . . .

(From page B1)

to help our local currency," Buenaventura said.

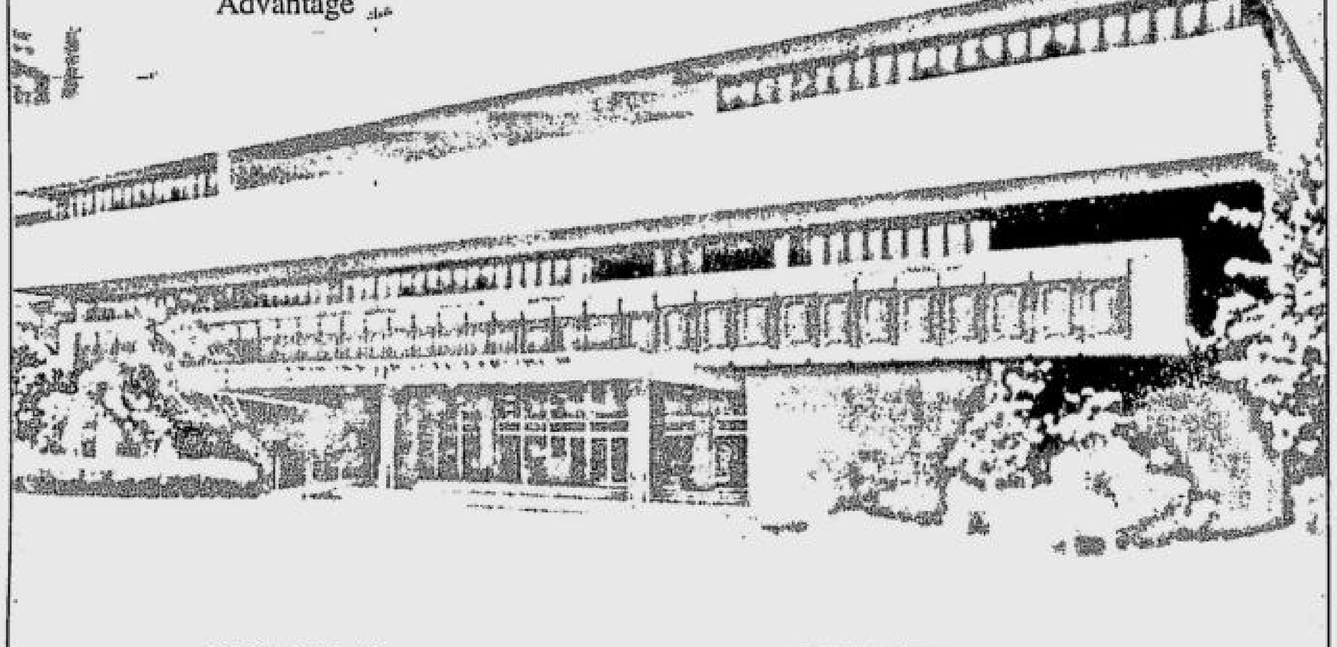
The central bank chief pointed out that the unresolved hostage crisis and the spate of kidnappings had impaired the tourism industry. Also, a slowdown in the US and Japanese economies has limited foreign direct as well as portfolio investments.

A trader from a foreign bank said the travel advisories put out by the US, Japan and Australia were scaring away not only travelers but also investors.

Buenaventura said he was confident the peso's weakness would not linger.

"People should keep in mind that we were in the same situation before and it corrected itself," said the central bank governor, referring to the abnormal movements of the peso until the last few days of the Estrada administration.

When the Macapagal administration took over, the peso rallied to 47 to $1 from a historic intraday low of 55.75 and record closing low of 54.79 to $1.



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UK financial services giant Prudential acquires leading US personal lines insurer Allstate's operations in Indonesia and the Philippines.

UK financial services giant, Prudential plc (Prudential) and Allstate, the leading publicly listed personal lines insurer in the US, announce the completion of the sale and purchase agreement for Prudential to acquire Allstate's holdings in PT Asuransi Jiwa Allstate, Indonesia and Allstate Life Insurance Company of the Philippines.

Prudential is one of the region's leading life insurers with operations in eleven countries including PT Prudential BancBali Life Assurance in Indonesia and Pru Life of UK in the Philippines. It has a clearly stated strategy of looking for high value adding opportunities to continue building scale in its chosen markets.

Dan Bardin, Prudential Corporation Asia's Managing Director, South Asia, noted:

"This is a great opportunity for us as Allstate and Prudential have similar cultures with highly motivated staff and agents, innovative products and superior customer service. Combining these businesses gives us a much stronger platform to continue building top quality operations in the very important Indonesian and Philippine markets."

Mark Tucker, Chief Executive of Prudential Corporation Asia added, "Prudential is a great believer in the tremendous potential of the Asian retail financial services markets. These acquisitions are another sign of our strong financial position and ongoing commitment to Indonesia and the Philippines."

I am delighted with the completion of the acquisition of the Allstate operations in the Philippines and in Indonesia.

Prudential (UK) and Allstate have similar cultures with highly motivated staff and agents, innovative products and superior customer service. Combining these businesses gives us a much stronger platform to continue building top quality operations in the very important Indonesian and Philippines markets.

Prudential is a great believer in the tremendous potential of the Asian retail financial services markets. The Indonesian and Philippine life insurance markets are very important to us. These acquisitions are another sign of our strong financial position and long term commitment to Indonesia and the Philippines.

I hope you share my enthusiasm for this new and exciting development for Prudential in Asia.

D. Bardin

Dan Bardin
Managing Director for South Asia
PRUDENTIAL CORP. ASIA

Prudential is officially the new owner of Allstate Life Insurance Company of the Philippines.

Because these two organizations are very similar in many ways, I am confident that a smooth transition will take place. This union will strengthen Prudential's bid for top position in the Philippines as well as in the region.

As a background, Prudential was first established in London in 1848. It is the UK's largest insurance company with over USD270 billion in funds under management worldwide. Its extensive network of life insurance and mutual funds operations include M&G mutual fund managers and leading financial advisor Scottish Amicable in the UK, and Jackson National Life in the USA.

With its experience, Prudential has consistently proven its mettle in growing businesses and has developed a record of unparalleled commitment and excellence in service.

Here in the Philippines, Prudential is known as Pru Life UK. Like its parent Prudential, Pru Life UK shares the mission of taking the risk out of peoples' lives by constantly keeping in tune with their varying financial requirements. Now, we take over in listening on to your needs for better products and services.

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PRU LIFE U.K.

Palace urged to ban export of rawhide

THE LOCAL leather industry is on' its death throes.

Leather industry leaders gave this grim outlook of their business as they made an urgent appeal to President Macapagal-Arroyo to ban the export of rawhide.

"The unmitigated export of rawhide is the sole culprit of the present state of the industry," industry leaders said in their appeal to the President.

In a press conference Friday, Tanners Association of the Philippines president Mary Lazaro said there was no economic sense in the export of vital raw material that sustains the livelihood of more than 56,000 workers dependent on the leather industry.

Other industry leaders pushing for the immediate ban of rawhide, aside from Lazaro, are the presidents of the Leather Industries Association of the Philippines, Philippine Footwear Federation Inc., Association of Philippine Leather Goods Exporters and Manufacturers, Marikina Filipino-Chinese Chamber of Commerce and the Leather Chemical Industries of the Philippines.

The groups specifically asked the President to issue an executive order that would rescue the local leather industry and other businesses dependent on it "from the manipulative influence of big-time and well-moneyed exporters whom they fear—in a matter of three months' time—will wipe out and kill the entire Philippine leather industry."

The group claimed that in order to replace the volume of rawhides it has been losing yearly due to export, the industry has to import shoes worth $117.6 million or P5.645 billion (computed at the exchange rate of $1 to P48).

Ironically, Europe is reportedly one of the biggest destinations of locally produced rawhides.

This absurd situation continue in spite of the shortage of cattle and carabao skins, the main source of rawhides in the country that is vital in the manufacture of shoes, bags, furniture, upholstery and other leathergoods.

Statistics show that the country slaughters cattle and carabao at 700,000 heads per year, translating to around 20 million square feet of leather which can produce around 10 million pairs of shoes.

With a total population of more that 70 million, the country's shoe industry only produce a pair of shoes for every seven Filipinos.

Locally produced rawhides are allegedly being exported by some unscrupulous traders to European countries, which in turn sells back to our country finished leather products worth at least P5 billion to the detriment of the local leather industry and the Filipino people.

The ban on the exportation of rawhides and semi-processed leather will translate to a steady supply of raw materials to tanneries in Meycauayan, Bulacan, shoemakers in Marikina and Biñan, Laguna, leathergood manufacturers and furniture makers of Pampanga and Cebu, automotive upholstery plants in Laguna and garments and glove industries in Bataan and Clark zones.

Exporting finished leather products, instead of rawhides, will result in more dollar earnings for the economy and employment to tens of thousands of workers dependent on the leather industry.

Officials of the different groups comprising the leather industry find the current situation absurd, because the country exports raw materials and buys it back in the form of expensive finished products such as shoes, belts, bags and other fashionable leather accessories.

URBAN BANK REOPENING

Fr. Robert Reyes (left), who led a nationwide "bank-run" marathon for the reopening of Urban Bank Inc., congratulates Export and Industry Bank (EIB) officers as Urban Bank's new owners. To mark Urban Bank's scheduled reopening next month, Father Reyes held a thanksgiving Mass for depositors. Present during the Mass were EIB chair Sergio Ortiz-Luis Jr. (middle) and vice chair Reynaldo David. Masses were concelebrated in Makati, Manila, Cebu, Davao, Iloilo and Baguio.

PCCI to submit . . .

(From page B4)

create a Business Development Cabinet Secretary for Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao who will work on enhancing the strength of each province or city and marketing their assets like tourism, agribusiness and the like.

In Davao City, the Business Council asked that government confront the peace and development problems of Mindanao by addressing its key socio-economic and political root causes through the formulation and implementation of the Peace and Reconstruction Imperatives for Mindanao's Enhanced Development (Primed).

The Mindanao businessmen also asked the government to address the high costs of shipping, the lack and inadequacy of infrastructure, bureaucratic red tape and corruption and the weak linkage between the academe and the private business sectors.

In Baguio City, the Cordillera Administrative Region (CAR) businessmen sought government assistance in promoting CAR as tourist and investment site. They also asked the government to address their various rural development concerns. This stemmed from the fact that the five provinces of CAR belong to the so-called Club 20—the poorest of the poor. In addition, they also asked the government to address their infrastructure needs, provide support to SMEs in the region and attend to their zoning and land conversion concerns.

Through the list, the PCCI said it hopes to bring to the government's attention the clamor of the regions so that in due time they can address the needs of entrepreneurs in the various localities.

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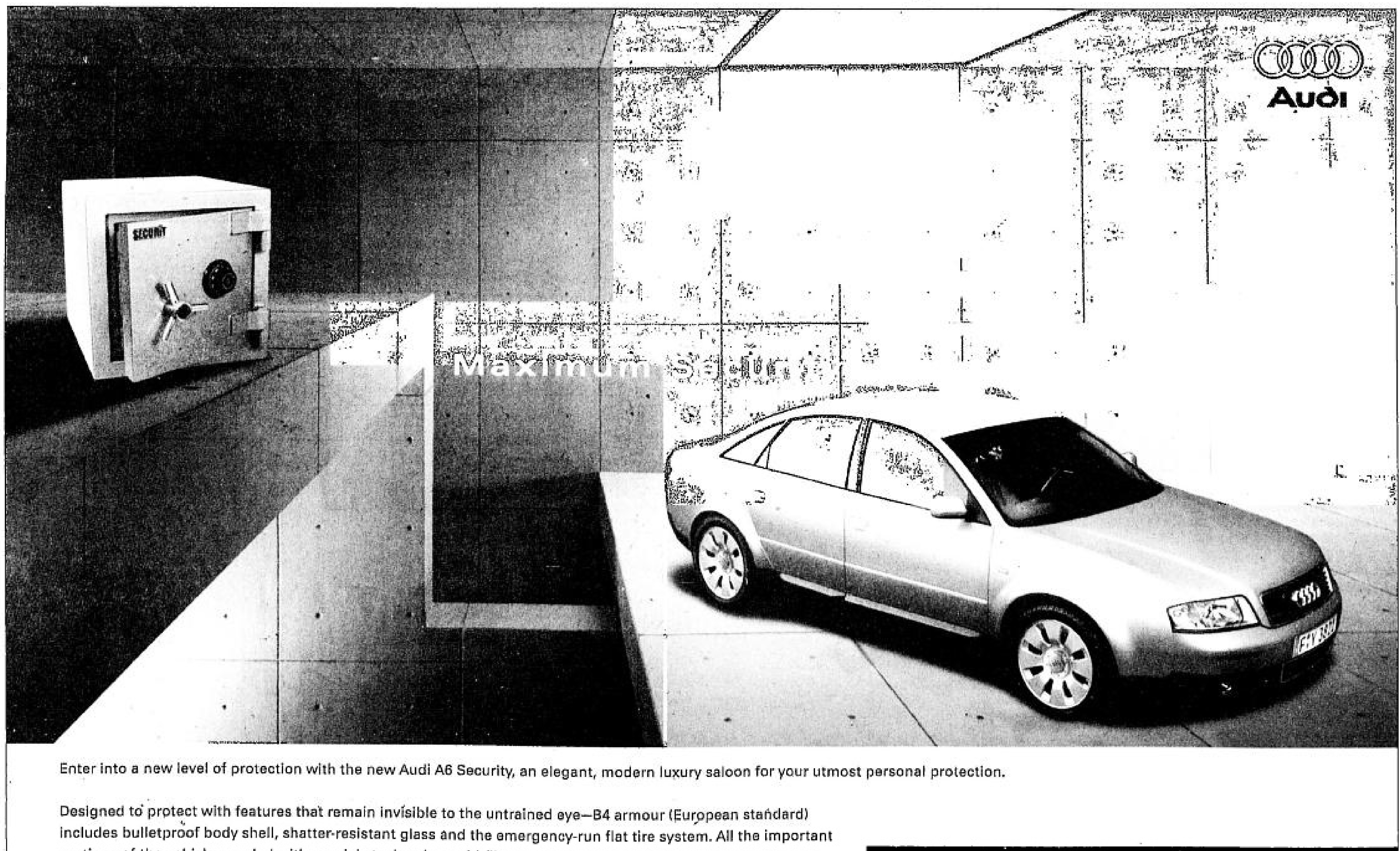

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Study says doing business in RP is a big hurdle

HURDLING government requirements before getting into business is too hard. It is like passing through the proverbial eye of the needle.

A team of economists from the quasi-government Philippine Institute of Development Studies (PIDS) may have stumbled on one of the more profound reasons why new investments are coming in trickles via the labyrinthine process an aspiring entrepreneur needs to get through.

The team led by Erlinda M. Medalla had gone through voluminous literature on fragmented competition policies in the country in the hope that the present administration adopts a cohesive one. The integrative report is titled: Towards a National Competition Policy for the Philippines.

The team said the cumbersome process of registration procedures itself could be a major source of barriers to entry. "This could prove more difficult to small and medium enterprises. The regular review of these procedures should be done to simplify and modernize the process," it suggested.

Getting started alone is a Herculean task. If one wants to start a corporation or a partnership, he has to go to the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) to register. If he is an OCW who has gone tired of staying away from his family, he must go to the Bureau of Trade Regulations and Consumer Protection.

If an investor wants to avail himself of incentives, he should then go to the Board of Investment to register. And if he plans to export his products, he will again need to register with the Philippine Economic Zone Authority (Peza).

If the investor is a foreigner, he will still have to go to the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas to be allowed to send out his capital and profits when the company he sets up starts making money. That is not the end of it.

The investor will have to move to the Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR) to get a company Tax Identification Number (TIN) and the authority to issue official receipts. If he happens to operate in Metro Manila, he will still need to go to the Metro Manila Development Authority to get a clearance.

After that, he must go to the city hall or municipal hall to get a building permit and a license to do business. After city hall, he moves over to the Social Security System to get an employer's social security number and then to Medicare to become a member of the government health service system.

In addition, the would-be entrepreneur goes to Meralco to get electric connection and to the Local Water Utility Administration (LWUA) to get a permit to tap into the water distribution system.

These are only the basic requirements. There are still other special permits to get. A foreign investor has to get an expatriate's visa from the Bureau of Immigration and an Alien Employment Permit from the Department of Labor and Employment if he will bring along foreign executives and technical men.

A garments exporter will have to get an additional clearance from the Garments and Textile Export Board and if he imports his raw materials, he has to register for operation of a Customs Bonded Manufacturing Warehouse from the Bureau of Customs. If he happens to be putting up a housing project or sits on a land that is getting converted for other uses, he has to get another permit from the Housing and Land Use Regulatory Board, the National Housing Authority and the Department of Agrarian Reform. *Philexport News & Features*

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August 9, 2001 (Thursday)

Prospects of Direct Selling: An overview of direct selling in the Philippines, its trends and achievements and the DSAP vision.

Jose Mari Franco - Chair, DSAP; President, Avon Cosmetics Inc.; Area Vice President, Southern Asia, Avon Products, Inc.

Building Blocks: How to create and manage a successful direct sales organization

Malu Dy Buncio – General Manager, Avon Cosmetics, Inc.

Process Excellence: How to attain and improve operational efficiency in branch networks

Perry Mogar – President, Sara Lee Direct Selling Asia

Critical Mass: How to accelerate recruitment and maximize retention of sales force

Joey Sarmiento – Country Manager, Sunrider Philippines, Inc.

Sales Olympics: How to create excitement and motivate sales force to exceed their previous best

Bernie Mercado – General Manager, Nu Skin Philippines, Inc.

August 10, 2001 (Friday)

Business Review: How to choose sales leaders and evaluate and redirect their performance towards desired effectiveness

Corito Singson – President, Tupperware Philippines

Intellectual Parenting: How to plan and implement training programs for peak sales performance

Fred Pizarro – Country Manager, Amway Philippines

Professionalism: How to deal with pyramiding and proselytizing issues in the industry

Josiah Go – President, Waters – AMC Philippines

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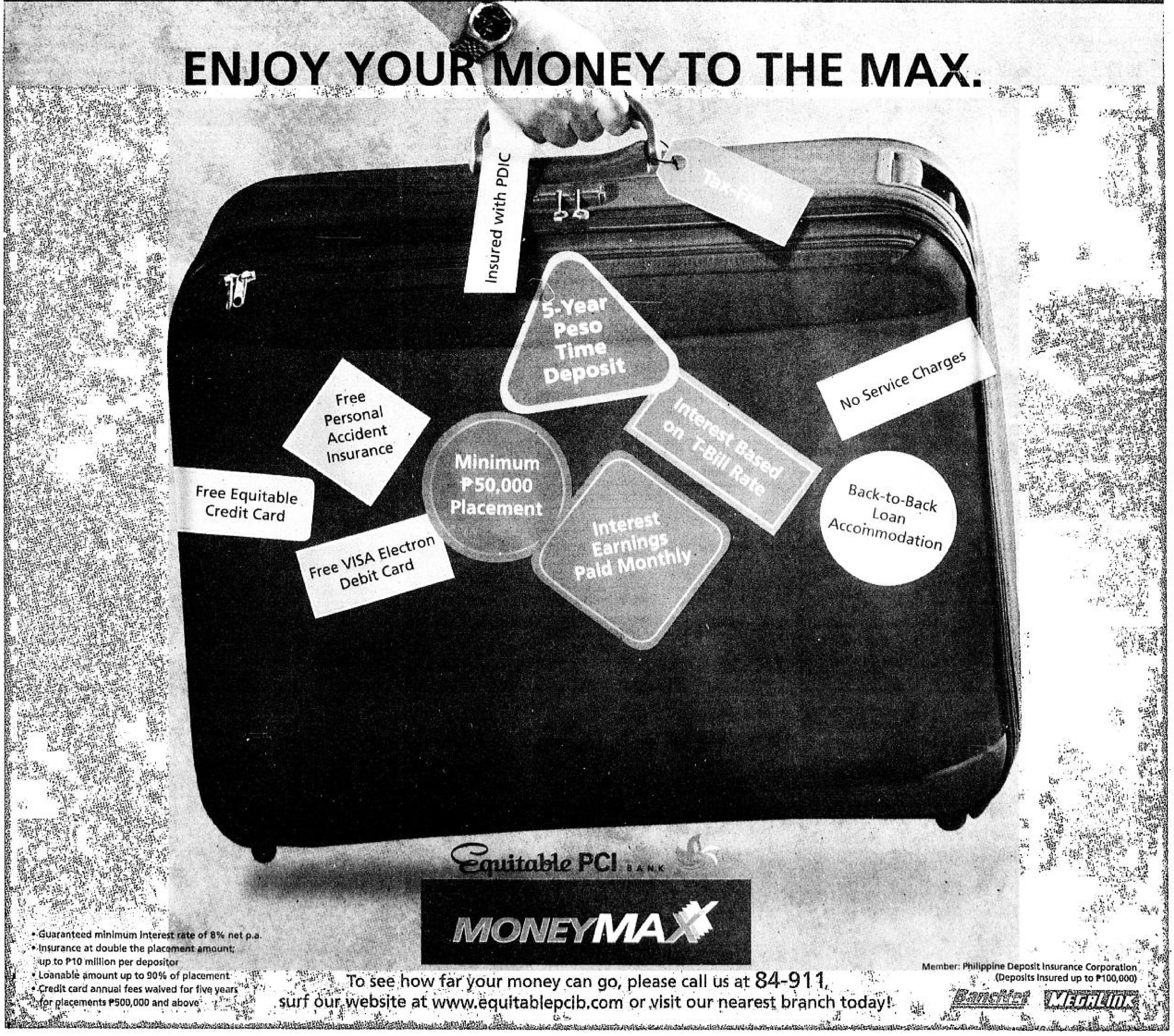
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180m²Nvlches Cal 4186212

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QUEZON CITY

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Tandang Sora 755m² Call Tel. # 634-8160

Timog cor. Mother Ignacia D.B.O. Call 634-8160

RIZAL

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OTHER AREAS

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CONDO/TWNHSE/APT

MAKATI

Antel Platinum Valero Mkti 40.5m² w/Prkng Lot 658-2115/16

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Abad Santos 12T 7816319

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Republic of the Philippines
NATIONAL ELECTRIFICATION ADMINISTRATION
Quezon City

NEEDED IMMEDIATELY GENERAL MANAGER

FOR
Masbate Electric Cooperative, Inc.
(MASELCO)
Pinamarbuhan, Mobo, Masbate

STARTING SALARY P15,000.00

Qualifications

Applicant may be male or female, must be at least 30 but not more than 55 years old, college graduate (in Business Management, Accounting/Finance, Engineering or Behavioral Sciences) preferably with Master's degree in Business Management, Administration or Industrial Management, and must have at least five (5) years supervisory experience.

Other Details

Application forms and additional information may be obtained at the Cooperative Operations Department, 3rd Floor, NFA Building, NIA Road, Government Center, Diliman, Quezon City, or at the Regional Electrification Office V, 2nd Floor, Karlenian's Building, Panganiban St., Naga City. Deadline for the submission of application form is on 20 July 2001.

(Sgd.) ***MANUEL LUIS S. SANCHEZ***
Administrator

(PDI--July 8 & 9, 2001)

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AUCTION SALE

Meycauayan-Filipinas Pawnshop, Aliw Complex, Calvario, Meyc. Bulacan. All unredeemed pledges of Jan 2001 will be auctioned on July 16, 8:30am. Lanuza & Sons-Auctioneer.

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LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is given that the estate of the deceased JOSEPHINE BARREDO MANZANO was settled extrajudicially by her heirs on the 31st of May 2000 before Notary Public Rydely C. Valmores under Doc. 297; Page 61; Book I; Series of 2000.
(PDI-July 9, 16 & 23, 2001)

NOTICE is given that the estate of the late ISAMI KAMADA had been extrajudicially settled by the heirs as per Doc.#435, Page #87, Book 1, Series of 2001 by Notary Public Atty. Benedicta F. Barrientos.
(PDI-July 2, 9 & 16, 2001)

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late RONNIE MANALO. has been Extrajudicially settled with his heirs as per Doc. No. 438; Page No. 89; Book No. 69; and Series of 2001 before Atty. Allan B. Cos, Notary Public of Paranaque City.
(PDI-June 25. July 2 & 9. 2001)

PERSONAL

PRAYER TO THE HOLY SPIRIT
Holy Spirit thou who make me see everything and show me the way to reach my ideal. You who give me the divine gift to forgive and forget the wrong that is done to me and who are in all instances of my life with me. I, in this short dialogue, want to thank You for everything and confirm once more that I never want to be separated from You, no matter how great the material desires maybe. I want to be with You and my loved ones in Your Perpetual Glory. Amen.- CORA

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DIONISIO (GONYING) R. CRUZ

Oct. 9, 1920 - July 7, 2001, 80 years old
Angat, Bulacan and Sampaloc, Manila

His dearest wife, **Milagros S. Cruz**; children **Letty & Boyet, Freddie & Marilou, Ric & Myrna, Tessie & Hermin, Marilou & Jonnie, Joel, Michael & Maridol, Marivic & Jay**; grandchildren, **Trisha, Vanessa, Maricris & Onel, Ryan, Romnick, Jasmin, Miguel, Jillian, Mariquit, Mark & Nicole** other relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the Arlington Memorial Chapel, Araneta Ave., Quezon City.

Interment will be on Wednesday, July 11, 2001 at the Holy Cross Memorial Park after the 9:00 a.m. Mass.

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Mourns with deep sorrow the demise of

KHO LIONG PU

(aka **VICENTE CO**)

Died peacefully in the Grace of our Lord on July 6, 2001 at the age of 78.

We join his bereaved family, wife **SIU TIOK**; children **Joseph & Tina, Marcos & Helen, Tony, Benny & Marian, Jimmy & Lota, Johnny & Sandra, Victor & Carol**, and **Vicky**; grandchildren, brothers, sisters, in-laws, relatives, friends, and pious readers in their prayers for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the Felicidad Chapel, Arlington Memorial Chapels, Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Interment will be at 7:30 a.m. on Sunday, July 15, 2001 at the Manila Memorial Park, Dasmariñas, Cavite.

REMEDIOS SERRANO OCHOA

November 27, 1907 – July 5, 2001

She is lovingly remembered by her children **Alfredo, Encarnacion & Amador Sierra, Rosario & Jim Allen**, and **Jose**; her grandchildren, and her great grandchildren.

Her remains lie in state at the Loyola Memorial Chapels, Guadalupe, Makati City and will be cremated on Tuesday, July 10, 2001 at 8:00 a.m.

LINO G. DAVID

FORMER MAYOR OF TARLAC, TARLAC
1964 - 1976

Peacefully joined our Lord on July 05, 2001.

His late wife, **Perla Sibal** (†); loving children and in-laws **Pol** (†) and **Mercy Ilagan Lapus, Mariel** and **Levi Roque, Tito** and **Marilou De Jesus, Benjie** and **Pam Paras, Joji** and **Betty Chua**; grandchildren **Richie** and **Romilee, Archie, Tootsie** (†), **Mico, Mitzi** and **Vanni, Mara, Paula, Paco, Nica, Jico, Jared** and **Jica**; great granddaughter **Iana**; relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the Family Mausoleum, Eternal Memorial Park, San Sebastian Village, Tarlac City.

Interment will be on Tuesday, July 10, 2001 after the 9:00 a.m. Mass at the Mausoleum.

INQUIRER CLASSIFIEDS
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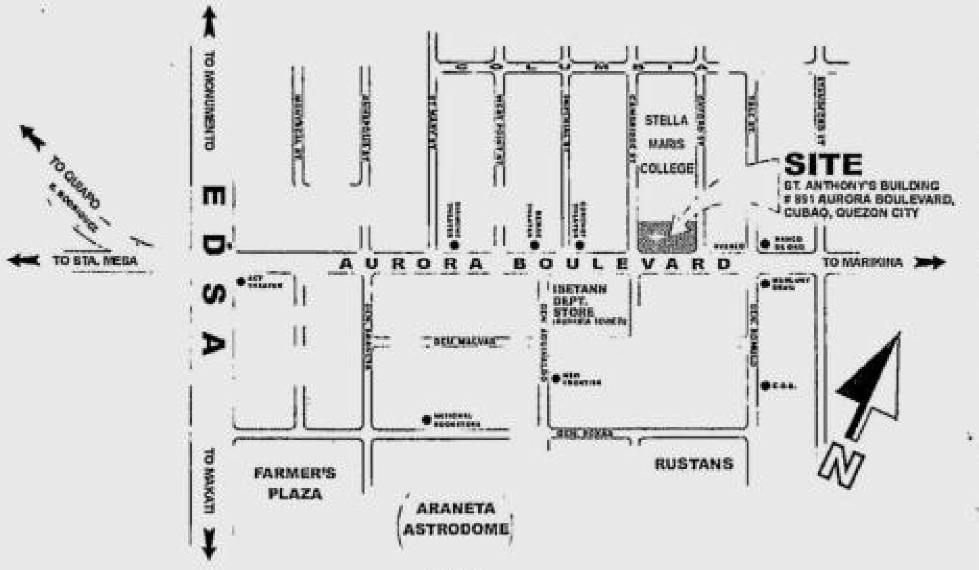
For inquiries, please call **421-1420** or **421-0343**.



GREGORIO "GORING" I. ELEAZAR

*Has joined his wife "**Feling**" and peacefully rests on the infinite embrace of our Lord on July 7, 2001 at age of 75.*

His loving children, **Bobby, Gerlie, Precious & Tine**; grandchildren **Tricia, Celine, Chicoy, Carmela, Rafael, Ina, Paola & Isay**, relatives and friends request for prayers for his eternal happiness.

His remains lie in state at the Loyola Memorial Chapels in Guadalupe, Makati.

Interment will be on Tuesday, July 10, 2001, at Manila Memorial Park, Parañaque after the 9:00 a.m. Mass.

CLASSIFIEDS

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

Notice is hereby given that the employment of **Ms. Maribel Akol Ramirez**, whose picture appears above and whose last known address is **532 M. Gonzaga St., Mandaluyong City, Metro Manila** has been terminated for cause by Fil Trade Commercial and Development Corporation effective May 22, 2001.

Any Transaction made by **Ms. Maribel Akol Ramirez** on behalf of the company after the date of termination of her employment shall not be honored.

(PDI - July 1, 4 & 9, 2001)

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(DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL WELFARE AND DEVELOPMENT)
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PHILIPPINE 2000

INVITATION FOR BIDS

A Foreign-Assisted Pilot Project on Children and Women is in need of individual Project Evaluation Specialists to undertake the Mid-Term Review of the Project, which is being implemented in Region VI, VII and XII.

Qualifications:

1. The Team Leader must have a 5-10 year proven satisfactory track record in Project Management and Program Evaluation of social development projects. Team Members must have a 5-10 year professional experience as Specialists in Early Childhood Development and Financial Management.
2. The prospective team must have experience in working on foreign-assisted projects (i.e., World Bank, Asian Development Bank and other international financing institutions) and familiarity with Government (national and local) processes and procedures.
3. The prospective team leader/members must have no prior or existing work contracts with the Project.
4. Preferably proficient in any of the local dialects (i.e., Cebuano, Ilongo/Hiligaynon, Maranaw and Maguindanao)
5. Willingness to travel to the project sites
6. The engagement is for a period of three months from August to October 2001.

You may send your curriculum vitaé and work resumé with letter of intent and samples of previous work engagements, to: **The Project Manager, ECD Project Management Office, 4th Floor, DSWD Building, Batasan Complex, Constitution Hills, Quezon City**, or thru e-mail address: npmo@ecd.gov.ph on or before **July 11, 2001**. No application will be entertained by phone.

(PDI – July 8 & 9, 2001)

Republic of the Philippines
OFFICE OF THE OMBUDSMAN
Old NAWASA Building • 76 Arroceros Street • 1000 Manila, Philippines

INVITATION TO PREQUALIFY AND TO BID

The Office of the Ombudsman is inviting prospective bidders to prequalify and to bid for the following office requirements.

82 Janitorial/Clerical/Special Skills Services

SCHEDULE OF BIDDING

1. PRE-BID CONFERENCE - 13 July 2001 @ 9:30 AM
2. DEADLINE OF SUBMISSION
   a. Prequalification Requirement - 18 July 2001 until 9:30 AM
   b. Technical Proposals - 18 July 2001 until 9:30 AM
   c. Financial Proposals - 18 July 2001 until 9:30 AM
3. OPENING OF BIDS
   Technical Proposals - 18 July 2001 @ 10:00 AM
   Financial Proposals - 25 July 2001 @ 10:00 AM

Accreditation requirements and bidding documents may be secured from the Property Management Section/General Services Division, Ground Floor, 176 Old NAWASA Building, Arroceros Street, Manila.

Bidding documents will be issued to prequalified bidders upon payment of non-refundable fee of SEVEN HUNDRED FIFTY PESOS (P750.00).

Financial proposals shall be accompanied by a bidder's bond either in the form of GSIS Bond, Cashier's/Manager's Check and/or Cash Bond of at least 2.5% of the total bid price.

The Office of the Ombudsman reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any defect or informality, assume no obligation whatsoever to compensate or indemnify the bidders for any expense or loss that they may incur in the preparation of their bid and to accept the bid most advantageous to the office.

(Sgd.) **ROMEO I. TAN**
Chairman
Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI – July 7, 8 & 9, 2001)

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
DEPARTMENT OF NATIONAL DEFENSE
GENERAL HEADQUARTERS
ARMED FORCES OF THE PHILIPPINES
Camp General Emilio Aguinaldo, Quezon City
Tel. Nos. 911-6433/911-6001 loc. 6592

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Armed Forces of the Philippines invites all manufacturers to apply for eligibility and to bid for the ***SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF SQUAD AUTOMATIC WEAPONS, with an approved budget of One Hundred Three Million Six Hundred Fifty Six Thousand Pesos (P103,656,000.00)*** under the **AFP Modernization Program.**

Only bids from suppliers who are themselves the manufacturers of said equipment shall be entertained.

Bid documents will be available for issuance starting ***July 11, 2001*** during office hours at the BAC Secretariat, Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff for Capability, Materiel and Technology Development, J9, AFP, 3rd Floor, Bulwagang Mabini, Camp General Emilio Aguinaldo, Quezon City upon payment of ***Ten Thousand Pesos (P10,000.00)*** which is not refundable. The form of payment will be in cash or cashier's check.

A Pre-Bid Conference is scheduled on ***July 24, 2001*** at ***10:00 a.m.*** *(local time)* at the *Armed Forces of the Philippines Commissioned Officers Club (AFPCOC), Camp Aguinaldo, Quezon City.*

Deadline for submission of applications for eligibility statements and the bid envelopes is on ***August 15, 2001 at 9:00 a.m.*** *(local time)* and followed by the Opening of Bids at ***1:00 p.m.*** at the *Armed Forces of the Philippines Commissioned Officers Club (AFPCOC), Camp Aguinaldo, Quezon City.*.

The Armed Forces of the Philippines reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive deficiencies embodied therein without assuming any obligation whatsoever for any expenses or losses that may be incurred by the bidder in the preparation of the bid.

(Sgd.) **LTGEN ROY A CIMATU AFP**
The Deputy Chief of Staff, AFP
Chairman, BAC

(PDI - July 9 & 10, 2001)

Republic of the Philippines
Mindanao Polytechnic State College
C. M. Recto Avenue, Lapasan, Cagayan de Oro City 9000
Tel. Nos. (08822) 72-60-65/72-79-46, (038) 856-1739
Fax (088) 856-4696

July 27, 2001

INVITATION TO PREQUALIFY AND TO BID

The Mindanao Polytechnic State College, located at Claro M. Recto, Lapasan, Cagayan de Oro City, invites all interested Contractors to prequalify and to bid for the continuing construction of the four (4) storey Learning Resource Center located in the same address mentioned above.

Requirements:

1. PCAB Registration and Classification "Large A"
2. Bank Commitment of P100,000.00
3. Equipment
    - 3.1 Two (2) units Bar Cutter, owned
    - 3.2 One (1) unit Concrete Vibrator, owned
    - 3.3 One (1) unit Concrete Mixer, 1 bagger, owned
    - 3.4 Pumpcrete, rented
    - 3.5 Transit Mixer, rented

Schedule of Activities:

1. Deadline for the submission of Accomplished Pre-C -------------- **August 15, 2001**
2. Pre-bid Conference ------------------------- **August 17, 2001**
3. Opening of bids --------------------------- **August 21, 2001**

Bid documents will be issued to prequalified bidders only after payment of a non-refundable amount of P1,500.00.

All particulars relative to prequalifications, bonds, evaluation of bids and awards of contract shall be governed by PD 1594 and its implementing rules and regulations as amended.

The MPSC reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any defect found therein and award the contract to the bidder who offered the most advantageous term to the government.

(Sgd.) **JUANITO J. GEMENTIZA, DTE**
IEP Executive Director
PBAC Chairman

(PDI - July 9, 16 & 23, 2001)

Republika ng Pilipinas
PAMBANSANG LUPON SA MGA YAMANG TUBIG
(National Water Resources Board)
[illegible] Floor, NIA Building, Epifanio delos Santos Avenue, Quezon City
Tel. Nos. [illegible]
Telefax [illegible]
E-mail [illegible]

PILAR WATERWORKS CORP.
Cor. Rose Ave., Pilar Vill
Las Piñas City
Applicant. Case No. 01-748
x------------------------------x

NOTICE OF HEARING

Applicant, authorized operator of the waterworks system within Pilar Village, Las Piñas City, Metro Manila, request for the authority to increase the following rates

PROPOSED RATES

0 - 10 cu.m.	P 180.00 Min. Charge
11 - 20 cu.m.	19.55 per cu.m.
21 - 30 cu.m.	21.50 per cu.m.
31 - 40 cu.m.	23.23 per cu.m.
41 - 50 cu.m.	25.35 per cu.m.
51 - 60 cu.m.	27.65 per cu.m.
61 - 70 cu.m.	30.90 per cu.m.
71 - 80 cu.m.	36.00 per cu.m.
81 - 90 cu.m.	36.00 per cu.m.
91 - 100 cu.m.	36.00 per cu.m.
Over 100 cu.m.	47.50 per cu.m.

With Power Cost Adjustment

Notice is hereby given that this application will be heard by the Board on July 26, 2001 at 9:30 in the morning at the NWRB-WUD, Conference Room, 8th Floor, NIA Bldg., EDSA, Quezon City at which time applicant shall present its evidence.

At least fifteen (15) days prior to the scheduled hearing, applicant shall publish this notice once in one (1) daily newspaper of general circulation in Metro Manila serve by personal delivery or registered mail, copy of the application and this notice to all affected parties appearing on page hereof.

Parties opposed to the granting of the application must file their written opposition supported by documentary evidence on or before the above date, furnishing a copy of the same to the Applicant.

Failure on the part of any person affected to file his opposition on time and to appear at the hearing will be construed as a waiver of his right to be heard and the board will proceed to hear and decide the application based on the evidences submitted.

Witness the Honorable Chairman of the National Water Resources Board this 27th day of June 200'

(Sgd.) HECTOR A. DAYRIT
Executive Director

AFFECTED PARTIES:

The Secretary
Sangguniang Bayan
Las Piñas City
Metro Manila

The Barangay Chairman
Pilar Village, Las Piñas City
Metro Manila

The President Mr. Josep Estrada
Homeowners Association
Pilar Village, Las Piñas
Metro Manila

The Administrator - MWSS
Katipunan R., Balara
Diliman, Quezon City

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MAKATI
892-5578, 811-4361
811-4370

KALAW
528-0213, 527-3342

MEGAMALL
635-0219, 635-0220

PHILAMLIFE AGENCY NEW OFFICE

Philamlife-Antonio Associates, the company's premier agency leader since 1993, recently inaugurated its third SM mall sales office at the fifth level of SM Manila. As part of its aggressive insurance mall site marketing strategy, the new office shall market products and services of Philamlife and its affiliates, Philam Care and Philam Insurance. At the opening ceremonies were (from left) Philamlife EVP and chief agency officer Josefino Sto. Domingo, Antonio Associates' senior agency manager Isagani Antonio and unit manager Zenaida Antonio, Philamlife president and CEO Jose L. Cuisia Jr., Philam Care EVP Rowena Cruz, Philam Insurance president and CEO Joost Vink and EVP Ernie Valencia, Philam Care president and CEO Jesus Verne Quiazon and Philamlife EVP and chief marketing officer Jesus Hofileña.

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Alay Lakad Foundation elects new officers

FRANK A. Evaristo, civic leader, businessman and journalist has been elected president of the Alay Lakad Foundation Inc. during its third annual general assembly held at the Holiday Inn-Manila recently. Also elected to the Alfi board of trustees are DECS Secretary Raul Roco, vice president; PIA director general Dave Gomez, corporate secretary; Carlito Dimar, treasurer; DILG Secretary Joey Lina, assistant treasurer; and Elpidio Abela, auditor.

DSWD Secretary Dinky Soliman, DPWH Secretary Simeon Datumanong, Cynthia Zagala (GSP), Lourdes Loyola (PNRC), governor Jack Dominguez (Kiwanis), OPS Secretary Noel Cabrera, DGE Rudy Estrellado (Rotary 3810), DGE Ernie Salas (Rotary 3830) and Nemesio Co (YMCA) were also elected as trustees to serve for a team of one year. Continuing trustees are Dr. Corazon Santiago (Decs-NCR), Gen. Leandro Mendoza (PNP), PDG Rolando Inovero (Lions), Gen. Diomedio Villanueva (AFP) and individual members lawyer Jose Redoblado, Rosario Villar and Dr. Amelita Dayrit-Go with Lina Laigo, DSWD's former secretary and Alfi's immediate past president as ex-officio member.

In the same assembly, the foundation adopted a resolution giving the following government institutions automatic membership in Alfi's board of trustees in recognition of their support to the foundation through the years – the DSWD, AFP, DILG, DECS, PIA and the incumbent chair-organization of the annual walk-for-a-cause being headed, in a rotation basis by the Rotary, Kiwanis, Jaycees and the Lions Clubs International.

Alay Lakad Foundation is a non-government, non-profit organization, a consortium of government agencies, civic organizations and individuals committed to the promotion and protection of the rights and welfare of the Filipino youth, particularly of the out-of-school youth. It was established in 1972 and transformed into a private foundation in 1998. Alfi, with its signature Alay Lakad para sa Kabataan Day, a walk-for-a-cause every first Sunday of every year, has already initiated over 820 livelihoods projects, scholarships and training workshops to at least 50,000 OSYs and their families.

President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, once chair and president of the foundation's board of trustees, now chairs its council of advisers with former DSWD Secretaries and past presidents of the foundation – lawyer Sylvia Montes, Dr. Mamita Pardo de Tavera, Commissioner Corazon Alma de Leon and Lina Laigo as members.

INVITATION TO BID
"AS IS WHERE IS"
Motor Vehicles
1994 Mitsubishi Lancer 1.6/TTG-107
1988 Mercedes Benz 260E/PPL-719
1996 Mazda 323 1.6/UKG-972
1995 Nissan Vanette/TSK-139
1989 Nissan Sentra/TCW-889
For particulars, call Philam Ins. Co., Inc./
Dick Carino. Tel. No. 75-43-457

Miriam College, AMA sign MOU

MIRIAM College and AMA recently signed a memorandum of understanding on environmental education. The agreement covers teacher training, curriculum development, materials production and research.

The MOU was signed between Socorro M. Rodriguez, Ph.D., vice president for academic affairs of AMA, and Angelina P. Galang, Ph. D., executive director of Miriam College environmental education center. Witness to the signing at Miriam College were Antonio Abadingo, AMA senior director for academic affairs, and Victoria Segovia, EEC program development manager.

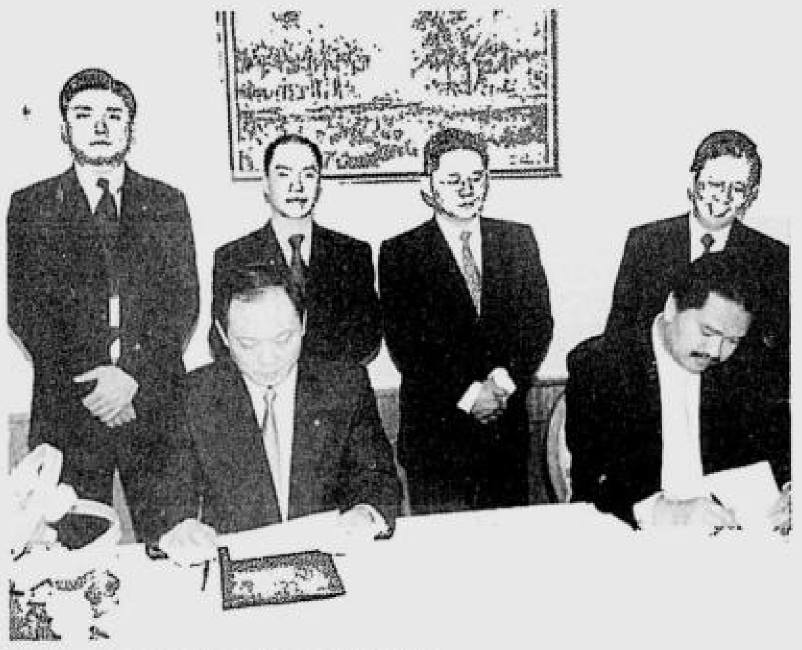
Galileo Emirates' new e-commerce vision

GALILEO Emirates, UAE-based distributor for one of the world's largest airline reservations computer systems, has launched its new vision for the future of e-commerce at a special subscribers' conference in Dubai in partnership with Emirates Internet and Multimedia, an Etisalat subsidiary.

Held recently at the Jumeirah Beach Hotel, Emirates' chair HH Sheikh Ahmed bin Saeed Al Maktoum gave the opening address with Dermot Mannion, Emirates' chief director for finance, IT and services and top executives from Galileo International as guest speakers. The one-day conference was attended by more than 250 travel agents and travel managers from the UAE, Bahrain, Oman, Qatar, Sri Lanka and Pakistan.

Naz Nizari, general manager for Galileo Emirates, said, "We have dubbed this conference 'Reinvention', as the Internet gives everyone in the travel industry a way to take advantage of the enormous new opportunities which new technology offers."

He added, "At Galileo we're developing new software to allow travel agents and travel managers to make bookings on line, and so transform their business. This subscriber conference has provided opportunities for attendees to get up to speed on an extremely effective way of doing business."



JVL-CHUNLAN CONTRACT

JVL International Industries Corporation, the newest home appliance and motorcycle distributor in the market, recently signed a contract with Ocean Harvest Development Ltd., part of the Chunlan Group Corp., to be the exclusive distributor of Chunlan products in the Philippines. Present during the contract signing were (from left, seated) Gui Xiang, deputy manager of Ocean Harvest and Alfredo V. Lagman Jr., president and CEO of JVL International. Witnessing the signing were Andrew Wong of the export department of Ocean Harvest; Colin Cheong Tin-Ming, senior manager of Ocean Harvest; Irwin Rene de Dios, vice president for sales and marketing of JVL International and Steve Peña Sy, managing director of AI Financial Services Ltd.

BITS Clips

Most outstanding Jaycees president

YOUNG

MANILA Jaycees president for 1999-2000 JCI Sen. Jelson N. Young was named the most outstanding chapter president of the Asia Pacific Region during the annual Junior Chamber International Asia-Pacific Conference held recently in Taegu, South Korea. Other awards he received included the overall most outstanding Jaycees chapter president for the Metro area last September in Bulacan, and the overall most outstanding Jaycees chapter president during the annual national convention of the Philippine Jaycees last October in Dagupan City.

Automatic@Ayala festival opens

AUTOMATIC@Ayala, the 21st century showroom of Automatic Centre and Blims located at 6797 Ayala Avenue corner Herrera Street in Makati City, stages "The Wedding and Home Show", a month-long festival for brides and grooms that brings together top bridal service providers under one roof. Highlights of the show include one-on-one Feng Shui consultations with Hong Kong-based geomancer Joseph Chau, wardrobe advice from fashion designers Pepsi Herrera and Edwin Tan, wedding planning sessions, interior design consulting by PIID's expert designers, a series of demos and seminars on creative cooking for couples, makeover and make-up, and other wedding and home must-haves. This unique exhibit can be experienced by all newlyweds-to-be from July 11 to August 11. The showroom is open 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. daily.

WELCOME
GENETIC COMPUTER INSTITUTE
1st CONFERENCE
2001

GENETIC COMPUTER CONFAB

Genetic Computer Institute recently conducted a tri-conference at the Manila Midtown Hotel focusing on career orientation, technology integration program for schools and a franchising seminar. At the confab were (from left) Kevin Hartigan-Go, president of Genetic Computer Institute-Philippines; Hasimul Haque Hetu, operations director of Genetic Computer School Singapore; James Hugh, marketing director of Genetic Computer School Singapore; Anthony Y. Gabitan, general manager of Genetic Holdings International Inc.; Steve Oakey, chair, Board of Examiners past head of computing of Manchester Metropolitan University in United Kingdom; William Goh, managing director of Genetic Computer School Singapore; Arnold A. Depickere, offshore IT projects director of Murdoch University in Perth, Western Australia; Dr. Arthur G. Cleveland, Ph.D., dean of college of science of Columbus State University in the United States, and Tony Toe of the technical and courseware development unit of Genetic Computer School Singapore.

RETORT TO WASHINGTON

'Everyone must do their bit' for global economy–France

PARIS—"Everyone must do their bit" to get the global economy back on its feet, French Finance Minister Laurent Fabius said Friday in a retort to US Treasury Secretary Paul O'Neill, who a day earlier urged Europe and Japan to pull their weight in combating the current slowdown.

"Everyone must do their bit," Fabius said in a statement released to Agence France Presse on the eve of a one-day meeting of G7 finance ministers in Rome.

"The United States must develop their domestic savings. Japan must implement indispensable structural reforms and combat deflation," the minister said.

As for Europe, it must nurture domestic demand, bring down inflation "and create a policy mix that will create the conditions for strong and sustainable growth," he continued.

On Thursday, O'Neill had said that Europe and Japan "need to play a locomotive role" along with the United States in spurring global growth.

Americans were "doing our part to contribute to strong and stable growth worldwide," O'Neill said.

But because of the interlocking nature of the global economy, the two other main economic regions had to play their parts as well.

"I do think we are all tied together," he said, adding that he was looking forward to hearing from his G7 counterparts about their own steps to raise growth toward potential.

"They're all quite aware of world economic circumstances, and in their own individual ways they are working on interventions and things they might do to improve their own prospects of real growth," he said.

Fabius retorted Friday that the main reason behind the global slump was the slowdown in the United States and high oil prices.

Growth figures "place the European Union ahead of the US," he said.

Furthermore, "sustained and balanced global growth is achieved by cooperation between all of us. That's the aim of the meeting tomorrow where I'll demand that the poorest countries will benefit as well from global trade."

In this regard, Fabius said he hoped the International Monetary Fund would "put in place the instruments to help them in this direction."

He said he would also underline the necessity to better coordinate action between multilateral and regional development banks "in order to fight poverty more effectively."

Fabius also reaffirmed French support for the Kyoto Protocal on greenhouse gas emissions, which US President George W. Bush refused to ratify.

The finance ministers of the Group of Seven most industrialized nations—Britain, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan and the United States— were scheduled to meet on Saturday, without the governors of their national central banks, in preparation for the summit of G8 heads of state in Genoa later this month.

Among the invited participants of the Rome meet were Eurogroup president Didier Reynders, EU Commissioner Pedro Solbes, Russian Finance Minister Aleksei Kudrin, Asian Development Bank president Tadao Chino, African Development Bank president Omar Kabbaj, the head of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development Jean Lemierre, Interamerican Development Bank president Enrique Iglesias, and World Bank president James Wolfensohn. *AFP*

Moore rules out code for anti-WTO protests

GENEVA—WTO chief Mike Moore on Friday called for the setting up of a code of conduct to ensure anti-globalization protestors can voice their opposition without it spilling over into violence.

Moore told a symposium on issues surrounding the world trading body that violence by protestors was no substitute for dialogue, nor was democracy aided if ministers were prevented from meeting.

He said genuine campaigners should distance themselves from anarchists.

"It would strengthen the hand of those who seek change if some NGOs (non-governmental organizations) would distance themselves from masked stone-throwers who claim to want more transparency, anti-globalization dot.com-types who trot out slogans that are trite, shallow and superficial," Moore said.

"This will not do as a substitute for civilized discourse," he added.

Moore, who is director-general of the World Trade Organization, said civil society, international institutions and governments should discuss and agree on a code of conduct.

It could include the rejection of violence, and NGO transparency on membership, financing and decision-making rules, he said.

"Governments and their institutions should in return give those who follow such rules a better stake in the process," Moore suggested.

EU Trade Commissioner Pascal Lamy told the symposium that the question was not whether there should be a relationship between the WTO and NGOs, but how this relationship should be structured.

He said processes should be looked for to enable NGOs to contribute wherever useful, but underlined decisions were ultimately taken by governments. "NGOs should have a voice, but not a vote," he said.

Moore insisted that his appeal for "rules of engagement" was not a "reactionary defensive" response to a phenomenon, which has gathered pace since the violent scenes seen at the WTO's Seattle ministerial conference in 1999. *AFP*

Entry to WTO to boost China's opening-up drive, says minister

BEIJING—China's looming entry to the World Trade Organization would broaden its drive to open up its economy, the foreign trade minister said Friday.

Minister of Foreign Trade and Economic Cooperation Shi Guangsheng said the country's accession to the WTO would see three changes in China's opening-up drive, the Xinhua news agency reported.

It would move from opening-up within a limited scope to opening-up completely, from opening-up under the guidance of interim regulations to opening-up within a predictable framework, and from opening-up unilaterally to opening-up as a WTO member to the other members, he said.

Shi, addressing a meeting of the China Association of Enterprises with Foreign Investment, said China would also improve its laws and regulations to create a sound legal environment.

This would be done in line with the requirements of China's socialist market economy system and commitments made as conditions for joining the 141-member WTO, he said.

The country would also adjust regulations concerning foreign investment to create a unified, stable, transparent and predictable policy environment for foreign businessmen, he said.

China would further transform its government functions to create an open, just, clean and efficient administrative environment for foreign investors, he said.

The minister called for the protection of intellectual property rights and measures to stamp out the practices of randomly collecting charges, imposing fines and conducting checks, Xinhua said.

"All these actions will create a better environment and provide more opportunities for investors from all parts of the world," he said.

Chief Chinese negotiator for WTO accession, Long Yongtu, said Wednesday that full consensus had been reached on major remaining issues concerning Beijing's bid to join the global trade regulator. *AFP*

Union reaches deal with LTV Steel

CLEVELAND—The United Steelworkers of America has reached a tentative agreement with creditors of LTV Steel on labor contract concessions, the bankrupt company contended were necessary to remain in operation.

The deal meets LTV's restructuring needs while "preserving the jobs and income of our active members and the standard of living of our current and future retirees," said David McCall, chair of the USWA's negotiating committee.

Details would not be disclosed until union members were briefed, the USWA said in a statement.

LTV spokesperson Mark Tomasch refused to confirm the agreement.

LTV, which been under bankruptcy protection since December, is the nation's third-largest integrated steel maker, meaning it takes the metal from ore to scrap. It operates in 17 states, Canada and Britain.

Company officials have said LTV must reduce annual costs by $800 million to remain viable, and that one-third of that savings will have to be achieved through labor costs.

LTV chief operating officer John D. Turner said last month that without a new labor contract, the company will be forced to liquidate. Turner said the company has enough cash on hand to operate only through September. *AP*

NOTICE OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF STOCKHOLDERS OF KEPPEL PHILIPPINES PROPERTIES, INC.

TO OUR STOCKHOLDERS:

Please take notice that the Annual Meeting of Stockholders of **KEPPEL PHILIPPINES PROPERTIES, INC.** shall be held on **17 July 2001** at **2:00 p.m.** at **Manila AB Room Makati Shangri-la, Ayala Avenue corner Makati Avenue, Makati City.**

AGENDA

1. Call to order
2. Proof of Notice of Meeting and Certification of Quorum
3. Reading and Approval of the Minutes of the Previous Meeting
4. Chairman's Address
5. Presentation and Approval of the 2000 Annual Report/Audited Financial Statements
6. Ratification of the Acts and Proceedings of the Board of Directors, Officers and Management of the Corporation during the year under review
7. Amendment of the Articles of Incorporation re: change of principal office address
8. Election of Directors
9. Directors' Remuneration
10. Appointment of External Auditors
11. Any other matters
12. Adjournment

The Board of Directors has fixed the close of business on **15 June 2001** as the record date for the determination of stockholders entitled to notice of and to vote at said annual meeting of stockholders.

Makati City, 5 June 2001

BY ORDER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

MA. MELVA E. VALDEZ
Corporate Secretary

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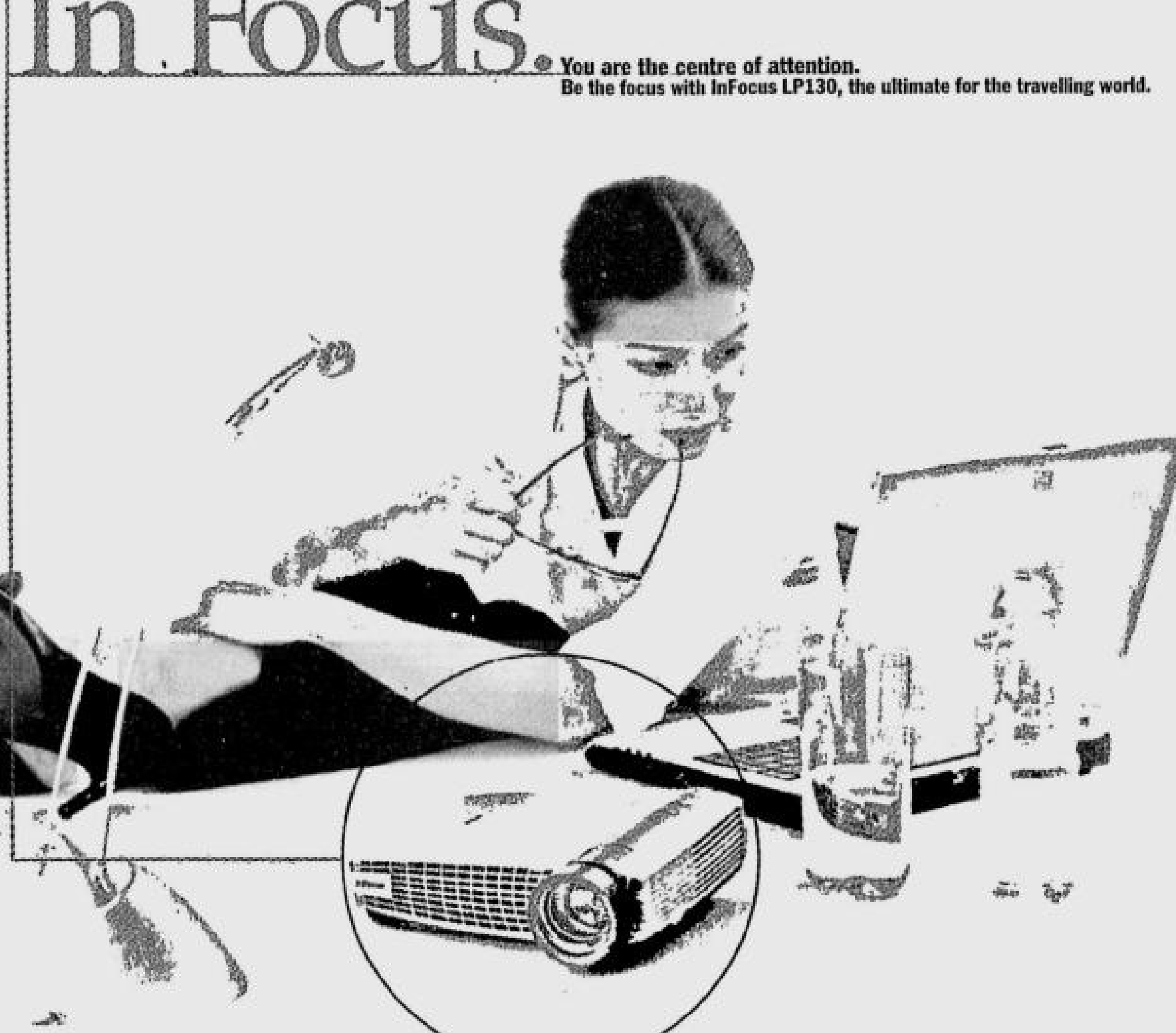

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Joblessness rise not seen as threat to US recovery

WASHINGTON—The rise in the US unemployment rate highlights a severe slump in the manufacturing sector, but analysts say it does not likely pose a threat to a predicted recovery for the US economy.

The Labor Department reported Friday that 114,000 jobs were lost in the US economy in June, and the unemployment rate rose 0.1 percentage points to 4.5 percent.

But the department also revised its May figures to show job growth instead of a decline. It said non-farm payrolls rose a revised 8,000 in May instead of the initial estimate of a fall of 19,000.

The sharp decline in manufacturing employment was the major factor in the payroll decline.

Manufacturing jobs fell by 113,000 in June, and in the second quarter, manufacturing employment fell by 347,000 jobs. Since last July, the factory sector had shed 785,000 jobs.

But Henry Willmore of Barclays Capital said the data should not be cause for alarm.

"The data in this report did not contain anything suggesting a dramatic departure from the other information on the economy," Willmore said.

"The labor market remains quite weak, but some of the other data hint at a modest improvement in demand. The weakness in job growth is concentrated in manufacturing, which continues to lose over 100,000 jobs a month. This mainly reflects the ongoing retrenchment in the IT sector and a somewhat broader inventory correction."

Willmore maintained his forecast for a 2-percent growth in the US economy in the second quarter, accelerating to 2.5 percent in the third quarter.

"It's pretty much the same thing that we've been seeing, the labor market is softer and unemployment is creeping up," said Robert McGee, chief economist at Tokai Bank in New York.

McGee added that the employment report was a lagging indicator, which did not predict future activity: "If we look forward, things seems to be turning around."

Joel Naroff of Naroff Economic Advisors suggested the slump in manufacturing could have more serious implications for the economy.

"We are talking about an astounding 4.1-percent drop in just one year. That is a near-depression," he said.

But Naroff said that many of the manufacturing job losses are the result of international competition rather than economic conditions.

"There are ramifications of the de-industrialization of America," he argued. "With inventories being cut dramatically, the wholesale sector is faltering. In addition, lower production means fewer goods to be hauled and the transportation industry is hurting."

Naroff said however that most other sectors of the US economy are "in decent shape and consumers are still spending at a solid rate," which may mean a recovery is coming.

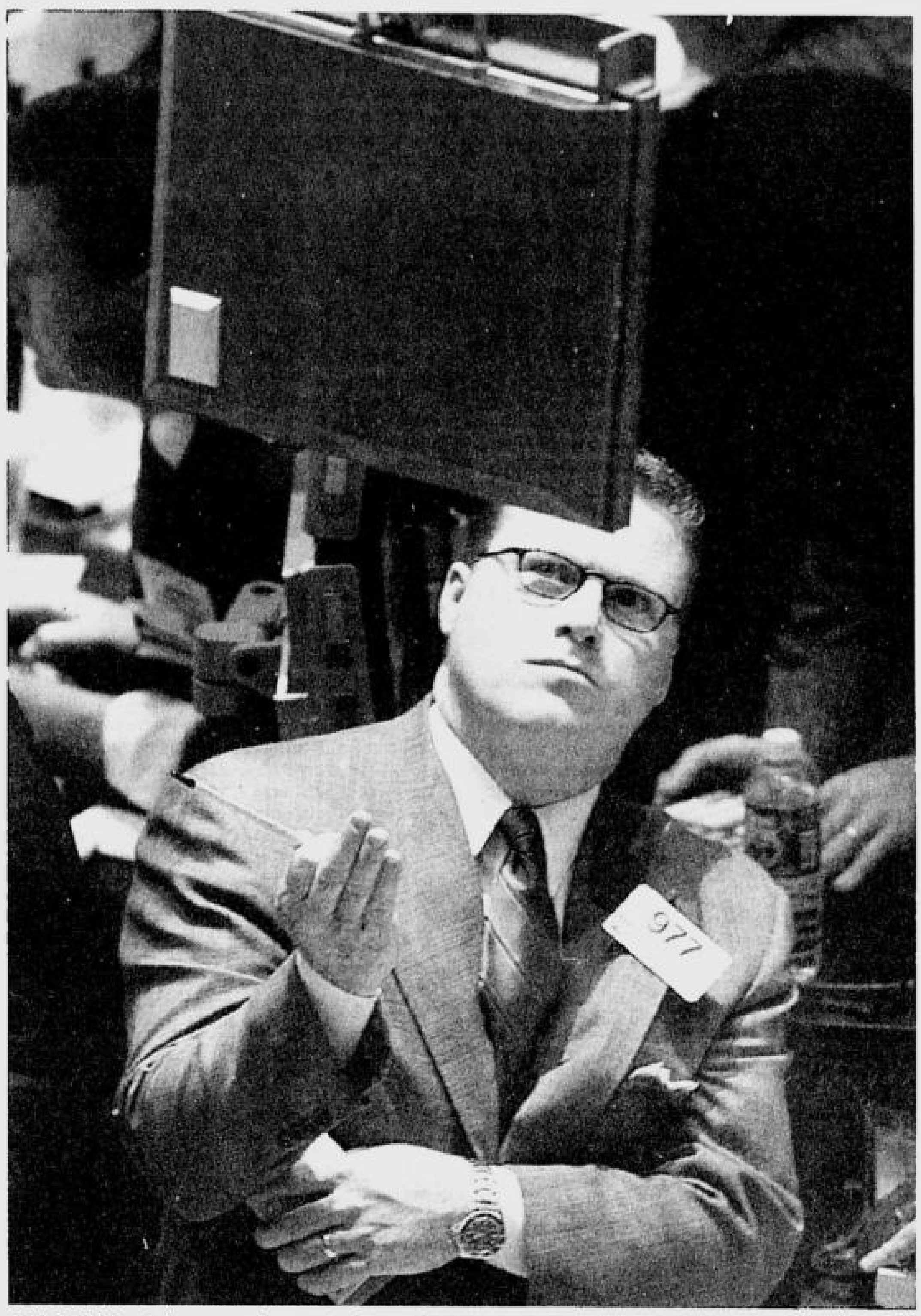
That also diminishes the likelihood of another rate cut by the Federal Reserve, which has slashed interest rates six times this year in a bid to boost growth.

Under current conditions, with some signs of a recovery, Naroff said, "I don't think the Fed members really want to cut rates again."

But Ian Morris, economist at HSBC Securities in New York, said the weak employment data could keep the Fed in a rate-cutting mode.

Morris said that the jobless figure might not show the real rate of unemployment because the labor force had shrunk over the past six months. With fewer people choosing to look for a job, the unemployment rate is artificially low, he said.

"The unemployment rate might actually be a bit higher," he said. *AFP*



A TRADER watches a monitor on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange as Wall Street sagged under another bout of corporate earnings warnings. The blue-chip Dow Jones industrial average tumbled 2.17 percent on Friday to 10,252.68, its lowest close in almost three months. REUTERS

Fed rate cut still in play after reports on US jobs, inflation

NEW YORK—Mounting US job losses, easing inflation pressures and murkiness over when the economy would rebound all augur for another small Federal Reserve interest rate cut in August, Wall Street economists said Friday.

The government's June employment report—released on Friday—showing the economy shed a greater-than-expected 114,000 non-farm jobs drew little reaction from the bond market, indicating there was no big shift in expectations for a rate cut next month.

The unemployment rate inched up to 4.5 percent in June from 4.4 percent in May, and a number of top Wall Street firms now expect it to rise to around 5 percent by yearend.

"The economy has clearly stalled, and at best grew close to zero in the second quarter," said Alan Ruskin, research director at 4Cast Ltd. "The Fed is still in the game."

The central bank's policy-setting arm, the Federal Open Market Committee, cut the federal funds rate on overnight bank lending for the sixth time this year on June 27, bringing it to 3.75 percent. Since the beginning of the year, the Fed had lowered the benchmark rate by a total of 2.75 percentage points to try to avert a recession.

In a poll of the 25 primary dealers of US government securities immediately after the June rate cut, 23 predicted another quarter-point cut on Aug. 21 when the FOMC next meets.

Most predicted the next cut to be the last for this year.

Since last week's FOMC meeting, a note of doubt has crept into forecasts for further rate cuts because a batch of indicators raised optimism the economy is at or near a turnaround point after a year of tepid growth.

Fed funds futures, a gauge of market rate expectations, on Friday put the chances of a quarter-point cut next month at only 50 percent. But Ruskin of 4Cast said the futures are underestimating chances of a rate cut.

Economists at primary dealers Merrill Lynch, Lehman Brothers, Fuji Securities and UBS Warburg all said after the employment report that they were sticking to their forecasts for a quarter-point cut.

Rebound hopes grew after recent data from the National Association of Purchasing Management, which indicated that although the hard-hit manufacturing sector has still not pulled out of an 11-month slump, the pace of decline has slowed and a recovery may be in sight.

NAPM data on the services sector in June also showed a return to growth after two months of decline. Several indicators of consumer demand were better than forecast this week.

But in one sign that the economy may not yet have turned the corner, the US stock market shows no signs of improvement and the corporate profits outlook is bleak.

Several major firms including microchip maker Advanced Micro Devices and British telecommunications equipment maker Marconi dropped bombshells on the markets in the past few days, warnings of disappointing profits.

Analysts now expect companies in the S&P 500 to report a dismal 17.6-percent drop in profits for the April-June quarter. That would be the worst contraction since the end of the last US recession in 1991.

Any concerns about inflation in the market seem to have all but vanished with recent data, and economists said that gives the Fed plenty of breathing room to lower rates more.

Energy and commodity prices are dropping and wage pressures are not growing.

The employment report showed average hourly earnings rose 0.3 percent in June and 4.2 percent year-on-year. A number of economists said wage growth appears to have peaked and will now begin to fall as unemployment creeps up.

"With a global recession looming, underlying inflation pressures remain in clear retreat, affirming that inflation will continue to decline in the months ahead," said Lakshman Achuthan, managing director of the Economic Cycle Research Institute.

There is still considerable room for Fed forecasts to shift—markets will have another month and a half of data before the August meeting and views could easily change.

Should future data clearly indicate the economy has bottomed and is rebounding, more economists will likely count the Fed out for the rest of the year.

"I'm not convinced we'll see a rate cut at the August Fed meeting," said Stuart Hoffman, chief economist at PNC Capital Markets in Pittsburgh. "Employment is a lagging indicator. It would not be surprising if the economy improves this summer." *Reuters*

UN body recommends testing for genetically modified foods

GENEVA—Governments should test and approve the safety of foodstuffs derived from genetically modified organisms before they are put on the market, UN health and food experts have agreed here.

The accord by the Codex Alimentarius Commission, which wrapped up a six-day meeting on Saturday, represented the first global principles agreed for the risk assessment of genetically modified foods, officials said.

GMO foods should be, in particular, tested for their potential to cause allergic reactions, representatives of the 165-member states on the commission decided.

World Health Organization director general Gro Harlem Brundtland hailed the move as the "first global step" toward the safety assessment of genetically modified foods.

"International agreement on how to perform risk assessment of genetically modified foods will help all countries, especially developing countries," she said in a written statement.

The Codex Commission, the highest international body on food quality and safety standards, is a subsidiary body of the UN Food and Agriculture Organization and the WHO.

The commission also set a new maximum limit of 0.5 micrograms per kilogram for aflatoxin in milk and milks products. Aflatoxin is a carcinogenic substance that can be transmitted from animal feed into milk.

Some countries had argued for a stricter aflatoxin limit of 0.05 micrograms per kilogram, but most countries agreed the higher limit was more feasible, especially in developing countries, the WHO said.

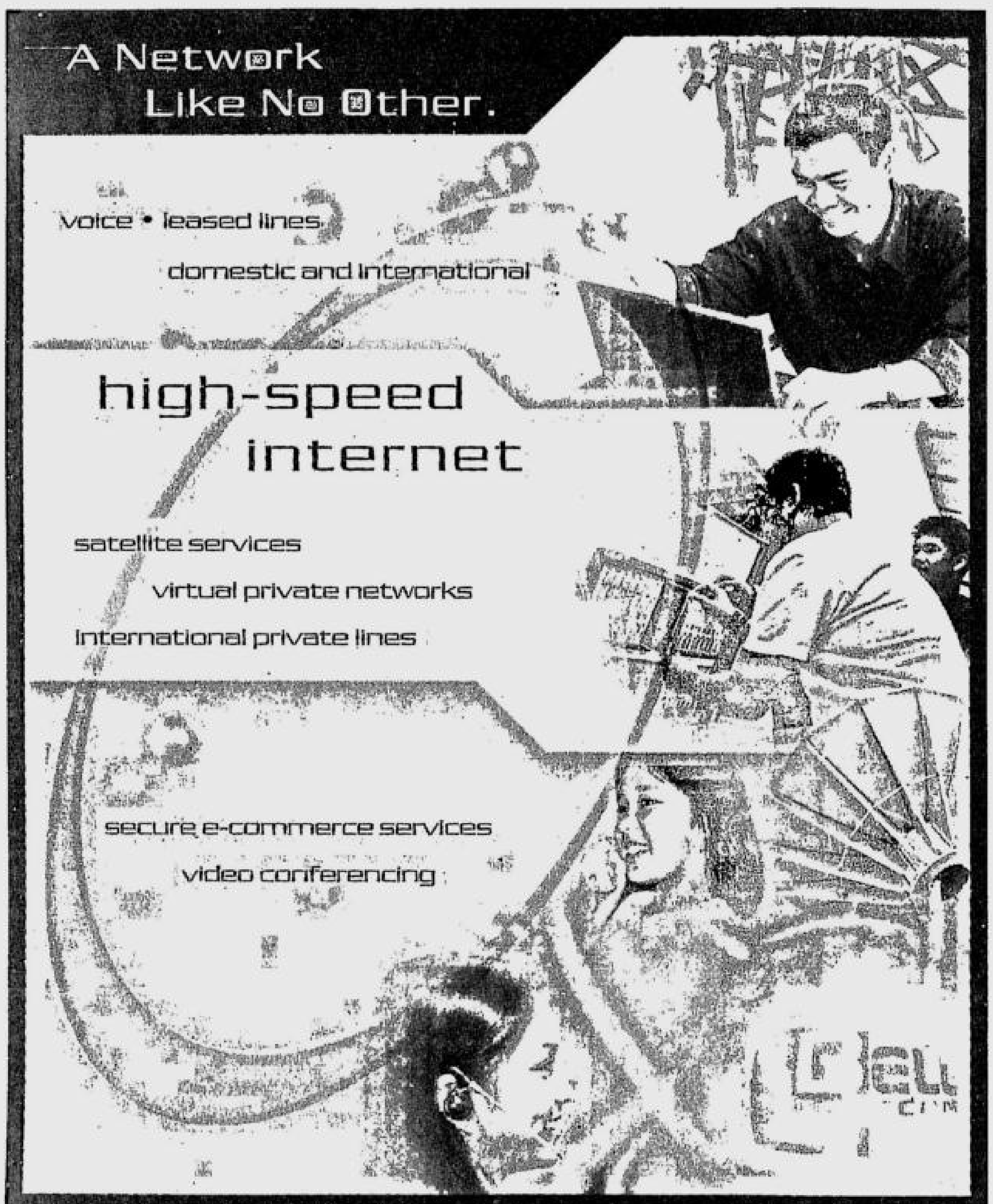
"Given the amount of dairy products that are consumed worldwide, especially by children, it was crucial to set a global standard for aflatoxin," Codex Commission chair Tom Billy said.

New guidelines were also agreed for organic livestock production.

These included a recommendation that organic livestock farming should aim to use natural breeding methods, minimize stress in animals and progressively eliminate the use of certain chemical veterinary drugs, including antibiotics.

Codex standards, guidelines and recommendations are voluntary.

Total international trade in foodstuffs is currently valued at more than $400 billion a year. *AFP*



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Japan finance minister sees measures to avert downturn

ROME—Japanese Finance Minister Masajuro Shiokawa, in Rome for a meeting of Group of Seven finance ministers, said Friday that there would be plenty of ways to keep his country's economy from shrinking.

"There are various measures to prevent that," he told reporters, who asked him to elaborate on remarks he made on Thursday that he would prevent Japan's economy from contracting on an annual basis.

But Shiokawa offered G7 ministers few hints on exactly what measures might be taken, saying it was not a major issue for the finance ministers' meeting due to get underway on Saturday.

"What we can say is that we will definitely not let the economy turn to negative growth," he said.

His comments come amid concerns that Japan's downturn might hamper a recovery in the rest of the world and speculation G7 ministers might press Japan for details on its plans to implement fiscal discipline and recover form its worst post-war slump at the same time.

Shiokawa plans to lay out to the G7 Japan's manifesto on reforms drawn up last month by Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi's closest advisers.

The reforms include plans to reduce fiscal debt and to dissolve banks' bad loans over the next two to three years.

However, the government warned in the manifesto that Japan would have to settle for weak economic growth for the next two years before such painful reforms start to pay off.

Japan has already effectively declared its economy to be in a technical recession by forecasting a weaker performance in the April-June quarter after a 0.2-percent contraction in gross domestic product in the previous quarter.

A stream of weak economic indicators has raised worries that implementing too much fiscal discipline might only push the economy into an abyss.

Calls to keep the world's second biggest economy breathing have come not only from Koizumi's domestic opposition but also from its biggest trading partner, the United States.

US Treasury Secretary Paul O'Neill has come to Rome armed with a view that US tax and interest rate cuts, aimed at averting recession in the world's largest economy, have not been matched by aggressive growth-boosting policies from all his G7 partners.

"We are doing our part to contribute to strong and stable growth worldwide," O'Neill said late on Thursday before departing for Italy.

"Europe and Japan can play a locomotive role and they need to play a locomotive role as well."

Shiokawa gained some sympathy from his Italian host, Economy Minister Giulio Tremonti, during a bilateral meeting on Friday.

"Shiokawa said the Koizumi government is determined to go ahead with reforms even though there may be a slight impact on the economy," a Japanese Finance Ministry official told a news conference. "The Italians said they understood."

Economists say O'Neill, whom Shiokawa is due to meet on Saturday morning before meeting with the entire group of G7 finance ministers, may not be as understanding.

Possible G7 requests may include further easing of Japan's monetary policy, although that is an issue for the Bank of Japan, not Shiokawa, to decide. Central bankers will not be at the one-day Rome talks.

Deputy BOJ Governor Yutaka Yamaguchi denied Thursday a need for further easing, saying Japan's short-term interest rates, already the world's lowest, had little room to fall further.

Details of any discussion on monetary policy, however, are unlikely to emerge, after delegations ruled out any official discussions over interest rates or currencies. *Reuters*

Singapore int'l reserves down 2%

SINGAPORE—Singapore held around $74.66 billion worth of official foreign reserves at the end of June, down 2 percent from May, according to preliminary figures released Saturday.

The reserve level fell nearly 4 percent from about $77.74 billion in June a year earlier.

The figures were released by the Monetary Authority of Singapore, the nation's de facto central bank.

Of the total foreign reserves at the end of June, S$134.65 billion ($73.72 billion) was in gold and foreign exchange, while the rest was held in Singapore's position in the International Monetary Fund and in special drawing rights. *AP*

GM recalls 10,000 pickups, sport-utilities

DETROIT, Michigan—General Motors said Friday that it was recalling 10,000 pick-up trucks and full-size sport-utility vehicles with potentially faulty passenger seat belts.

The 2001 model year trucks and SUVs are thought to have a faulty safety belt retractor component that could fracture, preventing the restraint from locking in the passenger during a collision or sudden stop.

No accidents or injuries relating to the fault, which was detected during a quality control process, have been reported, General Motors said.

"But we have a special concern for child safety protection," said GM spokesperson Mike Morrissey—the suspect retractors have been fitted to second and third-row seats.

The recall covers: Chevrolet Silverado and GMC Sierra full-size pickups; Chevrolet Tahoe and Suburban and GMC Yukon, Yukon Denali, Yukon XL, and Yukon XL Denali SUVs. *AFP*

Marconi CEO-designate walks away

LONDON—The financial director of embattled British telecoms group Marconi, John Mayo, who was due to become its chief executive, resigned late Friday, a group spokesperson said.

The resignation came amid a collapse of Marconi shares following a warning Wednesday that profits would halve this year and another 4,000 jobs would be axed in addition to 3,000 already cut in 2001.

Following his resignation, Mayo said, "Marconi is a great company going through difficult times that are not of its own making.

"The entire workforce faces immediate short term challenges and it is inevitable that sacrifices will have to be made."

Shares plunged 54 percent Thursday following the announcement of Marconi's collapse, and there was no reprieve Friday.

By the close of trading, its shares were down 7 percent, or 8 pence, at 104.5 pence.

Mayo had been due to succeed Lord Simpson as chief executive, who would have become chair.

Present chair Sir Roger Hurn confirmed he would remain in the post, while Simpson would carry on as chief executive.

Marconi is not alone in suffering from the slowdown in capital spending that has been prompted by the global economic slowdown.

In recent months, big names like Cisco, Nokia, Ericsson, Nortel and Alcatel have all alerted investors that the downturn will eat large holes in their bottom lines this year.

Marconi traced its own problems back to last year's feverish auctions of third generation mobile telephony licenses.

Mayo on Wednesday predicted a turnaround for Marconi next year, when he said networks "will be running so hot they'll fall over." *AFP*

This series on Philippine Banking history is published in the business section of the Philippine Daily Inquirer in commemoration of the 150th year of the **Bank of the Philippine Islands** (BPI), formerly *El Banco Español Filipino de Isabel 2* (The Spanish Filipino Bank of Isabel II), the first bank to be established in the Philippines and Southeast Asia.

PHILIPPINE BANKING

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But when the US eventually abandoned the gold standard in 1933, the exchange rate of the Philippine currency was changed as well. The revision in the peso's exchange rate was based on a law (Act no. 4199) passed by the Philippine Legislature, that effectively pegged the peso to the US dollar at the rate of 2:1.

Bank of the Philippine Islands (formerly *El Banco Español Filipino*), the sole issuer of Philippine bank notes during Spanish times, continued to be an issuer of Philippine pesos during the American regime.

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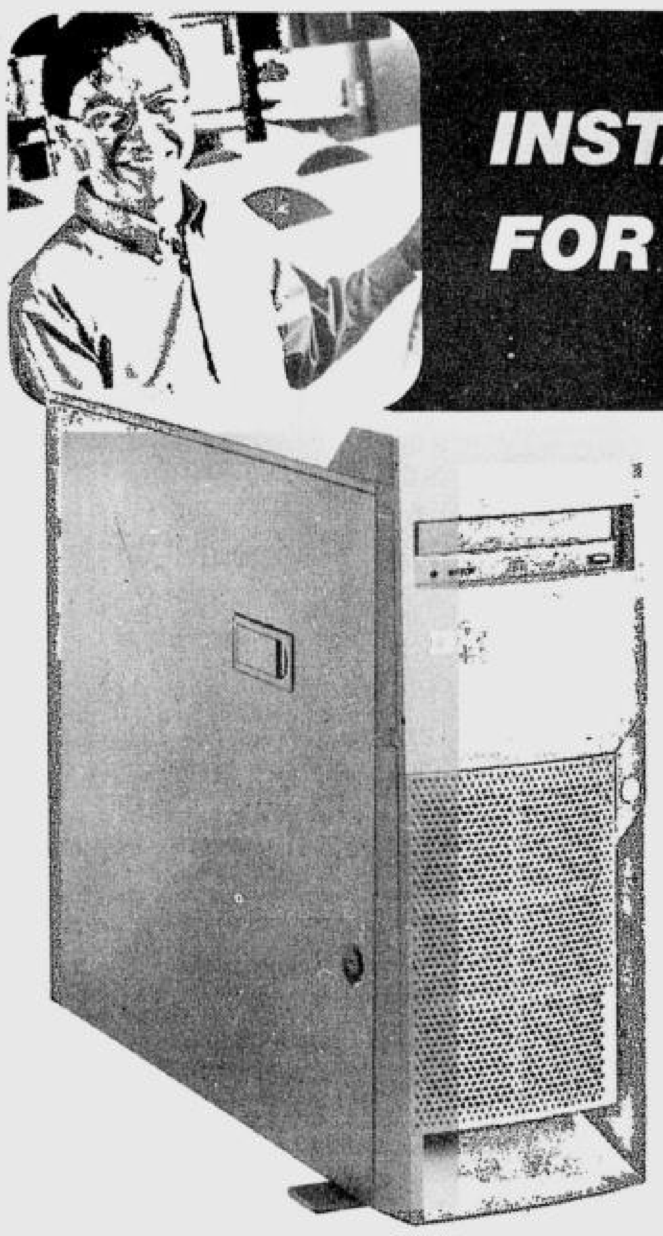

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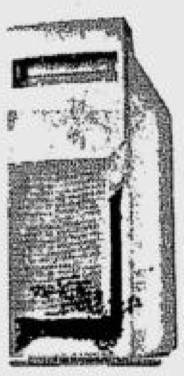

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SEC imposes new rule on lending investors

By Elena R. Torrijos

THE SECURITIES and Exchange Commission is requiring new lending investors to register as finance companies subject to capital and reportorial requirements of the commission.

The new policy was put in place in view of alarming information about unscrupulous activities of some of these lending investors.

This, however, will not apply on the existing 5,061 corporate lending investors nationwide.

SEC Chair Lilia Bautista told reporters Thursday afternoon that the SEC was helpless in regulating the activities of 5,061 lending investors registered with the commission as corporations.

Several lending investors were found to have violated their corporate charters and certain securities laws. One of the most frequently violated rules is the limitation to 19 in the number of lenders these companies are allowed to tap.

Bautista said a lending investor was guilty of violating the rule if it borrowed from more than 19 lenders in order to fund its lending operations.

The SEC believed it could better regulate lending investors if they would be registered as finance companies.

An amendment last year to the General Banking Act transferred to the SEC from the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas the jurisdiction over lending investors.

There is, however, no specific law authorizing the SEC to regulate these lending investors or to promulgate rules to govern their activities.

The justice department has yet to respond to the commission's request last year for a definite ruling on which agency is responsible in regulating small lenders, Bautista said.

Moreover, the SEC has no control over lending investors that were registered with the Department of Trade and Industry as single proprietorships or partnerships.

Under SEC rules, finance companies operating within Metro Manila are required to have a capital base of at least P10 million. For those in the rural areas, the minimum capital requirement was set at P2.5 million.

At present, there are 174 finance companies registered by the SEC.

ATI fast-tracks ₱1.2-B S. Harbor expansion project

PORT operator and logistics provider Asian Terminals Inc. is going full blast with the expansion of its flagship project, the South Harbor Container Terminal at the Manila port area.

In a statement, ATI said it would commission tomorrow a brand new ship-to-shore container crane in line with its commitment to surpass the quality of service standard in ports and logistics.

This is part of ATI's P1.2-billion expansion program for the year, which aims to improve its vessel and yard productivity through the deployment of a new cargo handling equipment, the development of additional storage areas and the upgrading of reefer facilities.

"The South Harbor expansion program has been accelerated to meet peak-level demands," president and CEO Richard D. Barclay said.

"This program is expected to boost container handling productivity and enhance the overall modernization thrust of the container terminal," he noted.

The construction of additional storage areas has also been mobilized in preparation for the expected increase in container volumes. Additional stacking area adjacent to the main container yard that will service over 30,000 twenty-foot equivalent units (teus) has been completed and is now being utilized, the statement said.

ATI received the new cargo handling equipment, along with two rubber-tired gantry (RTG) cranes, from Mitsui Engineering and Shipbuilding Co. in Tamano, Japan. It has a capacity of 40.8 tons under spreader and 55 tons for heavy lift, with a 42-meter outreach, 12-meter backreach and 31 meters under spreader. The two RTGs are already operational.

South Harbor's RTG fleet for yard support now consists of 17 units.

Also, the first phase of a four-hectare storage area at the main container yard was scheduled for completion by the end of next month. Adjacent to this is the new reefer rack area that can accommodate 300 teus and will be operational by the fourth quarter.

With this addition, reefer outlets at South Harbor will total 187 for 220-volt outlets and 283 440-volt outlets. Moreover, the transit shed at Pier 05 will be demolished and converted for empty container stacking.

With improvements at South Harbor in full steam, the company expects its general (non-containerized) cargo terminal to strengthen its existing market share of about 88 percent of the Port of Manila volume.

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President's men can't live on psychic income alone

BY CLARISSA S. BATINO

FORGET about Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas Governor Rafael B. Buenaventura. This guy built a fortune in his long career with the private sector and maybe he could tolerate a pay-cut now even if what he earns was only a fourth of what mid-sized bank presidents get.

Never mind other officials like Winston Garcia of Government Service Insurance System, Vitaliano Nañagas II of Social Security System and their likes who were brought in by an administration gung-ho for good governance or at least wanted to give that impression.

Forget about these top officials since theirs was also a position of prestige and public service. Part of their compensation must really come from psychic income if there indeed was such a thing.

But what about the men and women who have spent a lifetime in government, suffered salaries far from decent, rose to the ranks and only a decade or so ago when their pay started becoming

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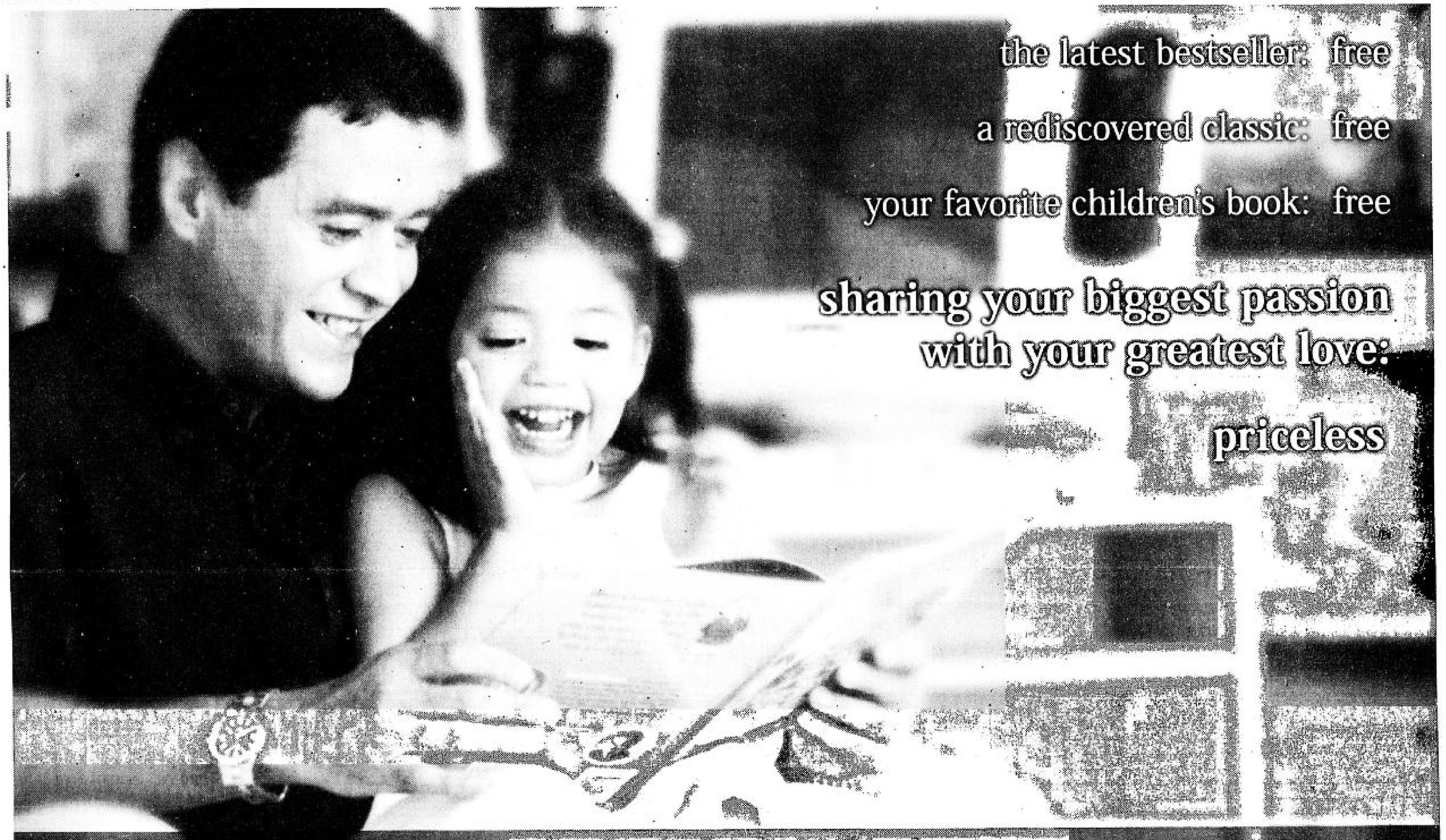
GARCIA

CAMACHO: "We want to avoid a situation where we will have resignations."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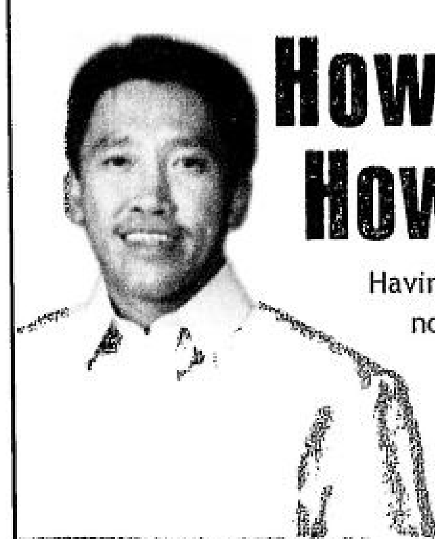

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R.V. MARZAN International Forwarders Inc. receives an ISO 9002 certification for its freight forwarding and warehousing services from the Certification International Philippines Inc. In photo during the awarding ceremonies are (from left) Jacqueline Marzan-Tolentino, EVP-general manager of R.V. Marzan; Renato Navarette, managing director of Certification International Philippines Inc.; Jesus Mari Marzan, R.V. Marzan president; Pete Mendoza, director of Philippine Shippers Bureau; and Jose Vicente Umali, R.V. Marzan general manager.

What it takes to get an ISO certification

FOR countless companies in all five continents of the world, "just-in-time" inventory, a business strategy that emerged only during the 20th century, has served as a key in minimizing costs and maximizing profitability.

The demand from various-sized companies that raw materials and finished goods arrive and leave at the appointed schedule with clockwork precision has made the freight forwarding industry more demanding and competitive.

"It is an absolute must that companies in our industry should go back to their very core and focus on total quality assurance. In a global sense, this means measuring up to local as well as international standards," says Jose Vicente Umali, vice president and general manager of R.V. Marzan International Forwarders Inc.

R.V. Marzan will officially secure today an ISO 9002 certification (1994 version) for its freight forwarding and warehousing services.

The certification comes after 19 grueling months of re-assessing, streamlining and orienting various internal processes toward exceeding the expectations of clients.

In order to attain ISO certification, a company must be able to clearly demonstrate to the certifying body that it can meet pre-set international quality control standards in manufacturing a product or, in the case of R.V. Marzan, delivering a service.

"A big bulk of what we had to do to get the ISO 9002 certification was to invest in our people through training, in world-class facilities, and in information technology. In the end, everyone from the rank and file and employee to top management gained a deeper appreciation of how they contribute toward the company's vision of being a comprehensive global logistics partner for its clients," reveals Umali.

The process also involved putting together manuals that detail the different responsibilities of each position and physical improvements as well as upgrading of office facilities in the work area.

In terms of results, employees were re-oriented toward achieving goals and a "right-the-first-time" attitude. For the company, efficiency in documentation has not only eliminated shipment delays but has also provided management with a system of checks and balances that closely monitors key performance benchmarks.

Earringed CEO ensures creativity is well and alive

BY TINA ARCEO-DUMLAO

HE HAS been known to wear bright colored shirts and ties, and he sometimes wears three earrings on his left ear.

Ian Diamond does not look like your typical chief executive officer, but then again he does not manage a typical company.

Diamond is senior vice president and general manager of Turner Entertainment Networks Asia Inc. He oversees all programming, marketing, operations and development of Turner Classic Movies and Cartoon Network in Asia-Pacific.

MANAGEMENT STYLES

Cartoon Network is the first channel to bring continuous cartoon entertainment in five languages to Asia and the Pacific. It is seen in over 23 million households in 17 countries including Australia, Bangladesh, Hong Kong, Nepal, Pakistan, Singapore and Thailand.

Since he deals mainly with animators and lovable characters like Scooby Doo, Bugs Bunny, Tom and Jerry, Dexter, Johnny Bravo, the Flintstones and the popular Powerpuff Girls, Diamond says his role as manager is to ensure that creativity is alive and well across the organization.

Diamond does this by giving the people at Cartoon Network the opportunity to bring out their ideas and backstop the ideas with programs and plans to put them out into the market.

"I believe in the idea that creativity is king. I want to develop a culture in the organization that new ideas should always come to the fore. Every idea needs to be looked at because that idea may become the next Bugs Bunny," Diamond says.

Instead of staid grey or beige walls, the Cartoon Network offices in Hong Kong are bright, colorful and decorated by larger than life-sized pictures of the great cartoon characters.

He says this helps stimulate new thinking and innovation, as well as serve as a guide or inspiration for the people to come up with something better and will last through the generations.

DIAMOND: Creativity is king.

"I am guided very much by the culture in Turner itself, which has always prided itself on innovation, on daring to do something new. I try to filter that through the organization because I believe that ideas should not be held back," Diamond stresses.

Creativity is alive and well at Cartoon Network as proven by the 65 international awards that Turner Entertainment received for its creative services.

Diamond knows first hand how important it is to let good ideas flow as he is an artist himself. He holds an honors degree in photography, film and television at the London College of Printing in the United Kingdom.

He worked as a lowly "tape monkey" who generally just do everything around the office including ordering pizza, then as a video editor, a writer and then promotions manager and senior producer/director for Star TV's general entertainment channel.

He moved to Turner in June 1994 as creative director, where he was responsible for overseeing and planning the on-air design, network identity, image campaigns and creation of all material for both Cartoon Network and TCM.

Over the next few years he assumed the added responsibility of leading and directing Turner Entertainment's on and off-air creative efforts.

"Being a manager is a balancing act, it is not taught in books but you just learn along the way. What is important is that you help your people bring out their ideas because these come from everywhere. I can not stress that enough," he says.

He wants his employees or creative staff to think of themselves as entrepreneurs. If they have a good idea then they should not leave it on paper. But ideas can only become reality if they can back them up or defend them through levels of management.

"The challenge for me is to put everybody on the same page and make sure that our efforts are coordinated. We should know that we are not just a television network but a brand with a great potential," Diamond says.

Cartoon Network's figures show that more people watch Cartoon Network than music channels and that at least 35 percent of its viewers are adults.

After seven years of working at Cartoon Network, the 34-year-old Diamond says he still looks forward to working each day. He says it is just a different world where Bugs Bunny and Tom and Jerry are his bosses.

"I work for amazing bosses and I genuinely enjoy the work. I really feel that I am in a unique and privileged position," he says.

"I am a big kid myself and I need my daily dose of cartoons. It just makes me look at the world a little differently," he adds.

Insurance and guarantees in emerging markets

(Second of two parts)

MAPping THE FUTURE

Jesus G. Tirona

GIVEN an environment that saw the GFIs zealously protecting its share of the LGU market, a new breed of borrowers not having the capability to package viable projects and a highly-liquid pool of lenders and investors wary of the unknown LGUs, the LGUGC decided to turn proactive as "market-makers."

Business development officers went around identifying worthwhile self-liquidating projects. This meant working through member-bank branch network and their subsidiary investment houses, the financial advisor, private proponents and the LGUs themselves. In one instance, the LGUGC made available its financial advisory service in packaging a waste disposal program for an LGU.

In the absence of a stand-alone credit rating agency, LGUGC had to do its own due diligence if only to hasten the evaluation process. At inception, LGUGC installed an internal credit screening and rating system following international standards.

To provide objectivity to an activity that is meant to be spun off eventually, a committee of five sourced from a pool of professionals, academicians, ex-government officials and LGU senior officials rates the LGUs. The final investment grade is presented to the LGUGC Board for its information and is then thoroughly discussed with the LGU executive on a confidential basis. The rating reflects not only the capacity but the willingness to honor contracted obligations, taking into account political, socio-economic, operating, financial and management factors. Finally, the target market was expanded to include even developing LGUs as long as these hurdle minimum credit rating requisites.

LGUGC's track record

Presented next is the profile of six LGUGC-enhanced municipal bonds representing eight diverse projects ranging from a simple upgrade of an abattoir, a jetty port with terminal buildings to the bigger and more complex projects like low-cost housing cum commercial area development, hospital, convention center and lodging facilities, public market, etc.

The amount varies from as low as P25 million to as high as P620 million. This is way above the pre-LGUGC range of only P8-26 million that were all used for development and construction of housing units. It is also significant to note that the terms have expanded to 5-7 years from pre-LGUGC range of 2-3 years.

The interest rate charged is based on 182-day TB rate plus a spread of 2-3 percent a year. Total contingent liabilities so far are at P1.355 billion, which already reflects a leveraging of almost 7x fund.

In the pipeline today are about P1.544 billion worth of projects of diverse types and offers opportunities for larger bond issues and longer tenors.

Prospects

The LGUGC is a homegrown insurance program borne out of a necessity to accommodate access by sub-sovereign units to a new credit market and operating within an environment that is noy too ideal. The equity contribution on the BAP side does not represent its entire member base so that only the investing members (21 of 52) and their affiliates will be able to patronize the indemnity fund.

While LGUGC has done a yeoman's job in terms of issue volumes, much remains to be done internally and externally. In terms of self-sustainability, negotiations for additional equity infusion by both local and foreign-based institutions have been initiated. Preference will be given to a strategic partner with potential for business synergy.

In September 1999, LGUGC signed a co-guarantee facility with the US Agency for International Development (USAID) where the latter undertakes to cover up to 30 percent of the risk on qualified LGU borrowers up to an aggregate exposure of $8.55 million. The 5-year agreement will augment LGUGC's guarantee capacity and raise its level of creditworthiness.

Externally, much is still to be done to create a policy environment conducive to more private sector participation in municipal bond development. We continue to pursue an active advocacy program toward structural reforms in the Code and its implementation.

First in the agenda is the liberalization of the LGU depository arrangements that can provide more comprehensive information on the LGUs in laying the groundwork for a credit relationship. Pricing any bank accommodation and services becomes a function of the risks and value of the relationship.

It would also be helpful if the government-prescribed record keeping were made congruent with the generally accepted accounting principles. A common language will result to financial statements that eliminate guesswork and conjectures.

Similarly, tax incentives would attract institutional as well as individual investors to the LGU bonds given better yields comparable to other investment instruments available in the market place. The obvious impact of this reform is that there is no incremental cost to the LGU issuer. But more important is the need to immediately provide a "liquidity" window for investors opting to encash their bond holdings. There are initiatives at this time on the part of the Asian Development Bank (ADB), which is considering an apex loan to a Philippine GFI with provisions for a "put" and "call" option to bond holders. The BAP likewise is pushing for the establishment of a "fixed-rate securities market" to complement the Philippine equities market in collaboration with two other financial organizations. Both approaches address the yield as well as the liquidity factors that can ensure a faster development of the bond market. The credit enhancement by LGUGC addresses the risk factor squarely.

Without meaning to be too localized, there is a need to rethink another provision in the code where an existing debt cap is imposed on the LGUs (currently at 20 percent). Since the same code provides that the LGU may opt to float a bond (instead of direct loans) for revenue-generating projects, then the cap has to go considering that the projects are self-liquidating. By the same token, the LGU working on joint-venture arrangements should be able to assign its IRA/deposit since it is, in point of fact, a partner in the enterprise.

A major program to improve LGU capability to identify and package projects must be put in place. Ideally, this program should also include funding assistance for financial advisory fee if the LGU requires technical expertise not available within the LGU.

Finally, the long-term growth of the capital market for LGU debts is hinged primarily in the institutionalization of its key players—the issuer, the underwriter, the trustee bank, the credit guarantor/enhancer, the financial advisor, the bond counsel, the credit rating agency and the bondholder. More PFIs participating in LGU debt market development does not only ensure adequate supply of financial resources but making delivery of such at competitive rates.

Concluding remarks

In the final analysis, the enormous financial requirements of basic services delivery and local infrastructure development can be addressed by an active and sustained public-private sector partnership. The NG needs to foster macroeconomic conditions conducive to the further development of the market while the private sector has to design various innovative financial products at competitive terms. Toward this end, each player is inevitably tasked to support undertakings that seek to enhance the efficacy and efficiency of the market.

The LGUGC's greatest success will be to eventually go out of business, or evolve into a more value-added business, i.e. offering financial advisory services or reforming into a credit rating institution. This assumes that PFIs will accept a reliable rating on the issue, are willing to undertake risks on their own and will continue to be comfortable with cash flows as a first way out back-stopped by a right to offset on any deposit/IRA or pledged assets. The future therefore bears watching, and LGUGC's continued viability and sustainability should be mapped carefully and periodically.

In closing, I wish to commend the organizers of this Conference whose mission is aligned with the mandate of the LGU Guarantee Corp. While we play our individual roles in our respective economies, let us be inspired by the fact that public finance is not a franchise of the GFIs and is not an end in itself. It is only a means of mobilizing funds—both public and private—and channeling these into productive ventures that will facilitate economic growth and improve the standard of living of our respective citizens.

(The speech was delivered by the author during the Conference on Financing Municipalities and Subnational Governments organized by the International Association of Development Funds held in Washington DC last June. This article reflects the personal views of the author who is a member of the Management Association of the Philippines and president and chief executive officer of LGU Guarantee Corp. The MAP secretariat and the author may be reached via mapsec@globe.com.ph)

President's . . .

(From page C1)

meatier but still far from what their counterparts in the private sector were getting?

These guys work really hard or at least most of them do. They were once tempted by private firms with handsome pays but had opted to stay exactly where they were partly because of the security of working for the state, partly because of expectations that given their current salaries they would get a modest amount when they retire.

And partly because they pity the government if they leave.

Take the case of BSP Deputy Governors Alberto Reyes, Armando Suratos and Amando Tetangco, who have been with the central bank in the last 27 to 37 years.

These guys were paid P100,000 a month and their annual compensation, including bonuses and other perks, amount to about P2.1 million.

With their experience plus regulatory know-how spiced with trade secrets as they sit in the weekly Monetary Board meeting, any of the three would easily fetch a salary of at least P10-12 million in the private sector.

What bank in its right mind would pass off the chance to hire Reyes who made a career in bank supervision, or Suratos whose legal banking expertise was unparalleled, or Tetangco who knows the ins and outs of BSP's treasury and open-market operations.

Fearing that his deputies may be lured to join the private sector if Malacañang would impose a pay cut had prompted Buenaventura to ask Finance Secretary Jose Isidro N. Camacho to spare the senior officers from the wrath of Memorandum 20.

Buenaventura said the entire Monetary Board including himself, who were all Malacañang appointees would submit themselves to a pay-cut. This, even if their compensation was a mere 8 percent of what monetary officials in other countries get.

The governor of Hong Kong's central bank, for instance, gets about a million US dollars yearly.

Memorandum 20 signed by the President and Executive Secretary Alberto Romulo last June 25 ordered the heads and senior officers of state-owned firms to submit a plan that would rationalize their compensation.

The government felt there was a need to rechannel government's scarce resources to areas like poverty reduction, infrastructure, and peace and order in light of a P145-billion budget deficit or even higher that was starting the administration in the face this year.

A career executive pointed out that Malacañang could be forgetting why government career officials were exempted from the so-called Salary Standardization Law in the first place.

"It was because they could not get competent people anymore to run these government-owned corporations and financial institutions because the private sector was paying a premium for their expertise."

"Hence, the salaries were increased so the government could get the right people for the job and to keep the good people where they are, knowing that the private firms were also on the prowl for good people from government," said one government executive who rose from the ranks.

Even Makati Business Club executive director Guillermo Luz said the government faces the danger of a brain drain and demoralization if the memorandum was strictly enforced.

And there was the legal issue that salaries of these officials were already prescribed by their respective charter and a pay-cut could be against the law.

DOF's Camacho said Malacañang was trying to fine-tune the parameters of the memorandum, which may spare or at least soften its impact to the career officials.

"We want to avoid the situation where we will have resignations especially of competent people who have made a career out of government service," said Camacho.

The DOF chief said the ideal compensation level of the presidents and chief executives of state-owned institutions were only twice that of their counterparts in the national government.

Camacho said the heads of government financial institutions have agreed in principle to take a pay cut which, using his formula, may amount to as much as an 81 percent reduction in compensation.

Last week, he met with the heads of the Government Service Insurance System, the Social Security System, the Development Bank of the Phils., the Land Bank of the Phils., the Philippine Deposit Insurance Corp., and the Trade and Investment Development Corp.

He said GSIS' Winston Garcia, SSS' Vitaliano Nañagas II, DBP's Remedios Macalincag, Landbank's Margarito Teves, PDIC's Norberto Nazareno, and Tidcorp's Victor Macalincag have agreed to a pay cut and comply with Memorandum Order 20.

Using Camacho's formula, the officials who run state-owned firms could not earn more than P1.26 million or twice the salary of an undersecretary that receives an annual pay of P630,300.

A few, said Camacho, may have the rank of a Cabinet member like Buenaventura. These officials could not earn more than P1.856 million or twice the P927,900 yearly earnings of a department secretary.

GSIS president and general manager Garcia would be hardest hit among the six GFIs on the list of top 14 earners in government. Based on Camacho's formula, Garcia was to suffer an 81 percent pay cut from his annual compensation of P6.51 million

SSS' Nañagas would also endure a P2-million or 61.3-percent pay cut from P3.26 million; DBP's Macalincag, a cut of P2.93 million or P69.9 percent from P4.19 million; Landbank's Teves, a cut of P1.79 million or 58.7 percent from P3.05 million; PDIC's Nazareno, a cut of P1.08 million or 46.15 percent from P2.34 million; and Tidcorp's Macalincag, a cut of P1.16 million or P47.9 million from P2.42 million.

55 YEARS:
A CELEBRATION
OF PEOPLE

ANDERSEN CEO Joseph Berardino, President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, former Presidents Corazon Aquino and Fidel Ramos and SGV chairman Cesar Purisima greet Washington SyCip a happy birthday. PHOTOS BY JOHNNY VILLENA

SGV & CO CELEBRATES 55 YEARS

Andersen Worldwide officials fete three RP presidents

THE END of June is always a special one for SGV & Co., the country's leading professional services firm. It is the month when the firm observes its foundation, which also coincides with the birthday of its founder, Washington SyCip.

To commemorate its 55th anniversary this year, SGV recently held a gala dinner with President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo as guest of honor. Former Presidents Corazon C. Aquino and Fidel V. Ramos also attended the event with members of the current Cabinet, the diplomatic corps and clients and friends of SGV.

Called "A Celebration of People," the company honored the men and women of SGV—its over 1,600 professionals as well as the nearly 30,000 SGV alumni worldwide.

SGV founder Washington SyCip celebrated his 80th birthday with President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo and former President Fidel V. Ramos, who was beside executive secretary Alberto Romulo.

The firm also paid tribute to its approximately 5,000 clients, a number of whom have been with SGV since it began in 1946.

As SGV managing chairman Cesar V. Purisima noted in his welcome remarks, "SGV is actually more than a story of one man. It is about what Filipinos can become. If the SGV story were a book, there would be volumes upon volumes written on the lives and careers that have blossomed in and because of SGV."

SGV also celebrated its global alliance with Andersen that began 16 years ago. Today, SGV is a part of a network comprising about 85,000 professionals working in offices across 84 countries.

To mark the special occasion, Andersen CEO Joseph F. Berardino flew in from New York to join the festivities. He was joined by other Andersen officers from the global and regional offices.

Last but not least, SGV honored the visionary, Washington SyCip on his 80th birthday. The surprise announcement that evening came from the Asian Institute of Management on the naming of the W. SyCip Graduate School of Business Management.

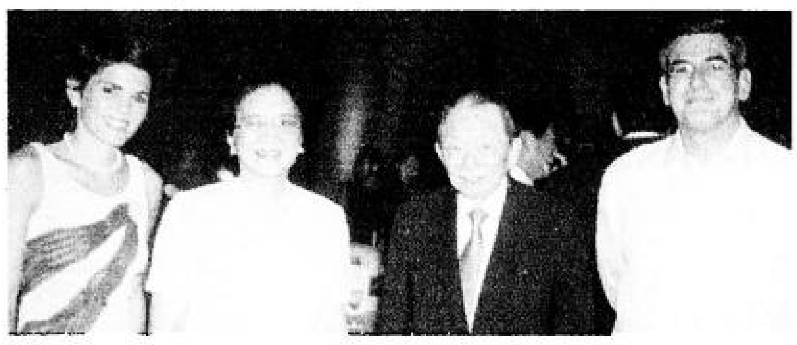
Makati Shangri-La
MANILA

(From left) **JOSE** L. Cuisia Jr., Washington SyCip, Alfredo Velayo, Rizalino Navarro, Roberto de Ocampo, Ramon del Rosario, Jaime Augusto Zobel de Ayala and Cesar Purisima.

SGV managing chairman Cesar Purisima welcomes INQUIRER chair Marixi Prieto and daughter Tessa Prieto-Valdes

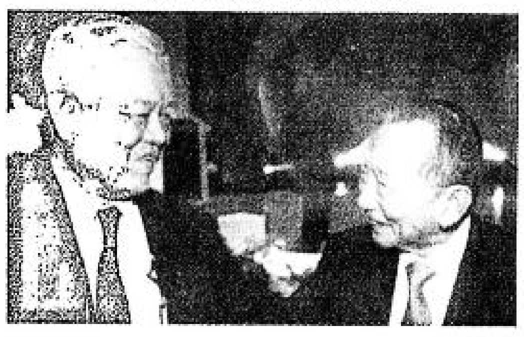
OSCAR Lopez, chief executive of the Lopez group of companies, came with his wife Connie.

SGV founder Washington Sycip and Andersen CEO Joseph Berardino who flew in from New York just for the occasion.



LIZZIE Zobel, former President Corazon Aquino, Washington SyCip and Jaime Augusto Zobel de Ayala.

(From left) **JAIME** Bautista of Philippine Airlines, SGV partner Antonieta Ibe, SGV guest Henry So-Uy and Avelino Zapanta of PAL and SGV partner Mario Aguas.



FORMER Prime Minister Cesar E.A. Virata with Washington SyCip

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Rash globalization can tear the social fabric

BY DENNIS M. ARROYO

GLOBALIZATION brings great benefits to countries but it can also unleash much havoc on the poor. It is volatile and risky. How do countries reap the immense benefits yet manage the risks?

This was the subject of a talk by Professor Joseph Stiglitz at the Development Bank of the Philippines last July 3. At very short notice, economists filled an entire hall, and students rushed to get his autographs on their textbooks.

Stiglitz is a celebrity among economists around the world, as his papers crisscross many fields of the discipline.

Stiglitz of Stanford University was the former chief economist of the World Bank, and he has often clashed with the International Monetary Fund. He is a director of the Initiative for Policy Dialogue.

This article will focus on how globalization can often threaten a nation's social fabric.

Liberalized trade

Globalization involves liberalizing trade, foreign direct investment and capital markets. It is also associated with the freer flow of knowledge, a good now available to the global public.

Globalization is already here, as no country really stands alone. There is always some degree of economic integration. "Globalization in some sense is inevitable," says Stiglitz. He adds that managing globalization is the responsibility of the state.

Over the past 50 years, some countries have been very successful in reaping the gains of greater integration with the world economy. Many of them are in East Asia. For example, South Korea's per capita income rose by eight folds over the level seen 35 years ago. Such countries have grown largely because of integration via exports and foreign direct investments. They managed to get the benefits of globalization without the downside of the risks.

High rates destroy jobs

Take the risks in employment, for example. The theory is that nations that follow their comparative advantage will attract labor to move from low productivity industries to those of high productivity.

The reality is that workers do not change jobs easily. In the American case, the NAFTA trade agreement was enacted when the US had a low unemployment rate of 4 percent. And yet the tiny sector of broom makers felt so threatened by Mexican broom imports that they lobbied the US Congress for more protection. They actually succeeded.

How much more resistance then from countries with much higher unemployment rates? Joblessness in South Africa ranges from 25-30 percent.

Globalization destroys jobs before it creates new ones. After all, investment takes time. Worse, official packages usually tighten monetary policy, raising interest rates. With high interest rates, investments are cancelled and jobs vanish.

Small enterprises turned away

Another effect is that high interests make the local currency artificially and temporarily attractive to foreign investors. It becomes overvalued.

This depresses exports and bloats imports. So it's virtually impossible to export more to create more jobs.

Then there is the matter of bank portfolios. The government raises interest rates by hiking the rates of Treasury bills. Banks then tend to buy more Treasury bills than loan out their money to businesses. Small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) get last priority in the funding squeeze.

The drain of funds away from SMEs is exacerbated with banking liberalization. The big foreign banks that buy up the local banks will shy away more from SMEs.

Argentina was once the poster boy of the IMF. She did everything according the IMF package: privatization, tight money, controlled inflation. But the foreign banks bought more US Treasury bills, denying money for SMEs.

Argentina ended up with 13-18 percent unemployment.

As such, half of the economy went to the informal sector.

Tax revenue

Suffered, the government had to borrow more, raising interest rates. The upshot is that trade liberalization must not be accompanied by high interest rates.

Risk to social fabric

It is a fact of life: opening up the economy leads to volatility. Who bears the volatility? Low-skilled workers are hit hardest as they get knocked out of their jobs. Countries must prepare for volatility with safety nets already tucked in place.

In Latin America, structural adjustment reforms led to high unemployment.

This in turn unleashed violence. In Indonesia, the government raised interest rates and contracted government spending. This led to a depression, then social and political turmoil.

The IMF program in Indonesia lowered GDP, resulting in lower tax collection, bloating the deficit. So the government cut subsidies to the poor, and this ignited riots. People could not understand how the IMF could provide billions of dollars to save Western banks but could not spare millions of dollars for subsidies to the poor.

"This issue of social fabric cannot be overemphasized," says Stiglitz.

There was a breakdown in social capital as well in Kazakhstan. The privatization program was badly implemented, and this bred mafia capitalism.

Crony capital flowed out to the US stock market in a massive case of asset stripping—assets were liquidated, and the money found its way into the United States. At the same time, firms could not borrow because of the high interest rates.

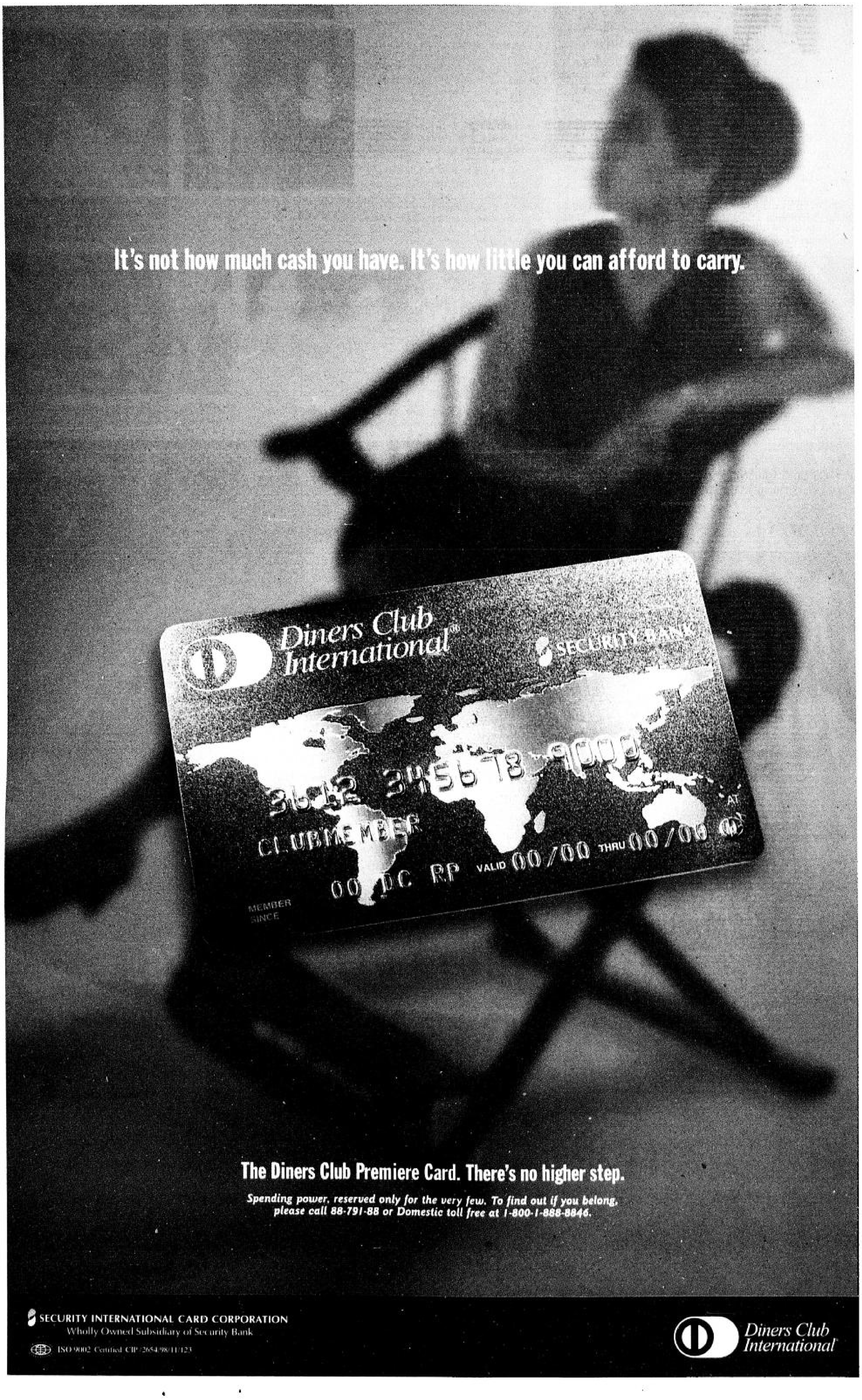
In contrast, China responded well to the Asian Crisis. She lowered interest rates while hiking government spending. The nation already had big infrastructure projects on the shelf, ready for implementation during times of recession.

Lessons learned

How do governments respond to the risks to employment during globalization?

1. Pace liberalization so that while jobs are destroyed, new ones are being created.
2. Financial institutions must be kept sound.
3. Keep interest rates low.
4. When liberalizing the entry of foreign banks, make sure that money goes to the domestic economy, to SMEs and to underserved concerns.
5. Manage macro-policy well, countering recessions with expansionary policy.

All told, governments must be sensitive to the impact of globalization on the social fabric.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Silicon Valley forced vacations not a cause for celebration

SAN FRANCISCO—Financially strapped Silicon Valley companies are forcing employees to take vacations as part of a way to cut costs and deal with the slumping high-tech economy.

Many of the forced vacations are coming this week as Americans mark the July 4th Independence Day holiday, but the moves are sparking complaints rather than celebration.

An estimated 25,000 workers are being told to stay home by such Silicon Valley companies as Sun Microsystems, Xilinx and Network Appliance.

Outside of the Valley, tech companies like computer maker Compaq are also telling some 33,000 workers to take the week off.

Companies like Hewlett-Packard, besides asking their employees for voluntary salary cuts, are also telling them to take some vacation, though so far, the company is letting its workers decide when to schedule their time off.

The move is an attempt by the company to trim expenses. Although salaries are paid during the vacations, emptied offices let companies cut back on utilities, security and traditional Silicon Valley perks, such as discount cafeterias.

"Anytime you have a slowdown in technology, you're going to get these holiday shutdowns," said Michael Wero, a spokesperson for the Silicon Valley Manufacturing Group. "This isn't the first time you've seen this hit the Valley."

According to Wero, tech firms sent workers home during the July 4 and Christmas holidays in 1996, when a financial slump caused bottom-line problems for technology hardware and silicon chip makers.

"Luckily, technology hasn't seen that many slumps, so you don't see this many shutdowns," said Wero, who likened the strategy to US automakers shutting down plants in the summer to retool for new models and to cut costs.

Besides shaving company utility bills, the mandated time off reduces the number of vacation days being credited to workers. Banked employee vacation days are carried as a debt on company books.

"It can help reduce a company's debt, which is nice during these times," said Wero.

But in response to a number of employee complaints, California's labor agencies are probing the practice for violations of state wage laws.

Employers argue that the forced vacation practice is nothing out of the ordinary and that the time off is simply vacation. Hearings on the practice have been slated for August. *AFP*

INFOTECH

LEO MAGNO, Editor

DOST to oversee e-government plan

By Erwin Lemuel G. Oliva

ALABASTRO

AN EXECUTIVE order will be signed anytime soon that would formalize the new role of the Department of Science and Technology (DOST) in overseeing the government information system plan (GISP), Science Secretary Estrella Alabastro said.

The government has issued "verbal instructions" to the DOST to facilitate the execution of the country's master plan for e-government, Alabastro said in a recent briefing.

The E-commerce Act of 2000 requires all government entities to be prepared for the digital economy within two years after the signing of the law.

In an interview, however, Alabastro expressed reservations on the new job assigned to the department. She said that the science department has few resources that could be spared for the plan's implementation.

One of her concerns involves funds needed by the science department to support activities that would hasten the execution of the GISP.

This early, however, Alabastro is looking at a DOST project called the Philippine Research, Education and Government Information Network (Preginet), on which GISP could "piggyback."

An initiative of the DOST and Advanced Science and Technology Institute, Preginet is envisioned to become the network backbone linking academic, research and government institutions.

Deploying different technologies such as fiber optics and satellite, Preginet is supposed to become a nationwide next-generation network. The DOST said it is considering also using this backbone, which has yet to be completed, for the government information systems.

Last year, several IT organizations recommended the creation of a task force that will work on the implementation of the plan, side by side with the National Computer Center.

The group asked the Information Technology and E-commerce Council, now the country's highest IT policy and coordinating body, to work on a budget with the Development Budget Coordinating Council for the plan's realization.

According to Alabastro, the science department is evaluating the status of the project. She has temporarily assigned Fortunato dela Peña, undersecretary for planning of science and technology services, to undertake this task.

Aside from the DOST, other agencies involved in the implementation of the plan include the Department of Budget and Management, Department of Trade and Industry, National Economic and Development Agency, and the Department of Transportation and Communications.

ICT projects reach ₱24B in Q1

INVESTMENTS in information and communications technology-related projects have reached a total of P24.917 billion, Bureau of Investments (BOI) records obtained by INQUIRER showed.

At least 29 companies have applied for the bureau's incentive package available through the Omnibus Investment Code of 1987, according to the list of approved projects from January 1 to June 30, 2001.

The BOI-approved ICT projects involved companies in high-tech services, infrastructure, software development, e-commerce, call center and application service solutions.

Two of the country's top conglomerates, Ayala Group of Companies and Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. (PLDT), were among this year's biggest projects.

The BOI report shows that Ayala will invest a total of P1.069 billion for an Internet data center called Ayalaport Makati Inc.

Meanwhile, PLDT will cough up P200 million for a company called MySecureSign Inc, a firm engaged in services related to data security. The company is under ePLDT, a PLDT Internet company.

Smart Communications Inc., a mobile telephone service company of PLDT, has also disclosed expansion plans worth P17.102 billion, and the setting up of a new payment infrastructure system valued at P636 million.

Other BOI-approved projects include Mobile Arts Inc., a soon-to-be launched firm that will be engaged in wireless interactive messaging and other value-added services in the Philippines. The company is expected to invest P108.885 million in the country.

Mod.net Internet Infrastructure, established by Internet pioneer Wily Gan, will set up an Internet data center facility initially worth P575.090 million.

Other BOI-approved projects include A2Z Philippines.net Inc. (P4.838 million), Acer Information Products Philippines Inc. (P30.124 million), Adroit Innovations Philippines (P55.690 million), Aneco Communications Corp. (P316 million), Contact World Inc (P671 million), Duon Corp. (P2.4 million), Global Implementation Service Inc. (P6.8 million), Innodata XML Content Factory (P143.463 million), Medi Data Inc. (P103 million), Meridian Telekoms Inc. (P167.392 million), Philweb.com (P2.268 billion), Philenter.com Inc. (P128 million), Smartweb Philippines Inc (P5 million), SourcePilipinas.com Inc. (P447.863 million), Star Cast International Inc. (P5.1 million), Transnational e-business Solutions Inc. (P109.624 million), Vantage Information Systems (P 51.878 million), Vinta Systems Inc. (P 256.045 million), Yapster e-travel (P111.8 million), Yapster e-trade (P101.490 million), and Zzubo Systems Inc. (P3.892 million).

All projects approved by the BOI will be granted incentives, such as income-tax holiday of up to six years for pioneer firms and four years to non-pioneer firms, among others.

Erwin Lemuel G. Oliva

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BUILDINGS designed FOR E-BUSINESS

In the highly competitive world of e-business, companies that rely heavily on technology naturally have more exacting requirements in selecting an office location to establish their operations. This is the reason why more companies are realizing the technological advantages of locating within information technology zones.

In Northgate CyberZone (NCZ), the 18.7-hectare information technology park in Filinvest Corporate City, buildings are conceived, designed and constructed exclusively around the needs of I.T. companies. The finished product is a building suitable for 24/7 operations, capable of accommodating higher electrical and structural load and other specifications unique to the I.T. business, and with architecture and interiors that adapt well to the industry's peculiar workflow. Most importantly, it should provide access to affordable and redundant communications services.

Designed by Studios Architecture, a leading Silicon Valley architect, NCZ's two buildings in the zone's Plaz@ block were built from the ground up, integrating these features and facilities compatible with rapidly evolving technology.

To meet the workflow environment unique to the dynamic technology industry, the buildings have a semi- side core design featuring contiguous wide office spaces. Provision for high-ceiling headroom at 2.60 meters, enough leeway for raised flooring and an option for an open ceiling design ensure flexibility in interior space planning. The floor can accommodate a live load of 50 psf with specific areas for heavier load requirements. The buildings' sleek and modern look feature continuous glazing panels and operable windows to allow for natural lighting and ventilation - elements important to stimulate creativity.

The electrical design and airconditioning system were laid out while taking into consideration the 24/7 operations of technology companies. For uninterrupted power supply, tenants can depend on a 100% standby generator with quick power engagement. An extra campus back-up provision ensures redundant power supply. This system activates within 10 seconds in case of power outage, since interruptions can mean millions in lost business for I.T. companies.

The buildings are also equipped with a high-density wattage per square meter (50 VA). This increased power load provision, which is twice that of regular buildings, anticipates the high demand requirements of specialized I.T. equipment. To comply with tenants' varying demands, service voltage will be 230/ 127 volts three phase on a 60Hz frequency standard and power cables will be placed on fully accessible ventilated cable trays suspended from the ceiling.

The airconditioning system is designed for energy-efficiency since offices require 24-hour cooling. The building is provided with a central cooling tower which allows tenants to install their own back-up water-cooled AC units. This system is continuously available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week at a flat rate of P110/sqm/month so tenants are freed from exorbitant after-office aircon charges. It is also user-friendly and compatible with precision type water-cooled AC-units typically used for Data Centers and Clean Room type applications.

To ensure the smooth flow of business operations, tenants are assured of a constant supply of utilities with a state-of-the-art Building Management System (BMS) which monitors the central cooling tower, emergency generator, water supply and sanitary pump systems. Although manned 24 hours, the system is capable of being remotely monitored via modem. The BMS also provides preventive maintenance scheduling to ensure total reliability and optimum performance of all the building systems.

Tenants need not worry about unauthorized entry since the buildings are located within a guarded PEZA zone with a card access security system at the main entrances of the building. Automatic fire detection, alarm and sprinkler systems are in place with a tenant option for a dry-type extinguishing system to avoid water-damaged equipment. As an added safety feature to semi-conductor equipment, the buildings are equipped with lightning protection and grounding systems to avert damaging power surges.

Of course, the communications infrastructure meets the standards of I.T. companies. Northgate CyberZone takes it a step further by establishing it's own 24/7 Network Operations Center which controls, manages and monitors a complete line of telecom services for all buildings and locators within the zone. NCZ has both fiber optic facilities as well as a fully managed Broadband Convergent Network using ATM technology. Locators also have access to alternative facilities such as microwave and satellite communications. The zone's advanced, highly scalable IP-based network provides a range of services such as high-speed Internet, LAN/WAN connectivity, data co-location and advanced telephony services. Being a PEZA-registered economic zone, several telecom carriers are allowed to operate within Northgate CyberZone, translating to lower costs, better service and greater level of redundancy for locators.

Management and provision of communications services in the zone are handled by Northgate Convergence Corporation and Millenia Broadband Communications Corporation, both subsidiaries of Filinvest, the developer of Northgate CyberZone. This makes Northgate the only one-stop, fully managed communications provider among the I.T. developments in the country.

Northgate CyberZone's Plaz@ buildings have set the pace for future developments within the zone, providing companies the edge in this technology-driven information age.

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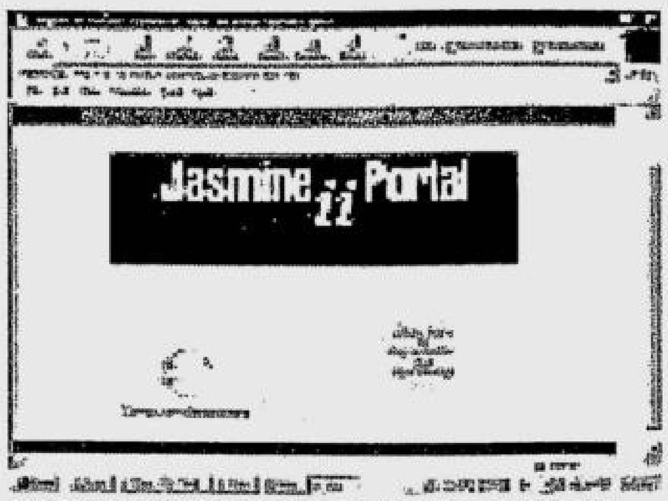
Corporate portals emerge with deluge of information

By Erwin G. Oliva



JASMINEII PORTAL 3.0: An enterprise information portal

CORPORATE users nowadays need an integrated window to the world of information. They want a single virtual space for all information they need for work on a daily basis.

"The challenge is extracting all these information from legacy systems and placing them into a single interface," Ashim Berry, marketing director of interBiz, e-business application division of software firm Computer Associates.

Computer Associates unveiled Jasmineii Portal 3.0, a software solution that encapsulates all corporate information into one webpage. The inspiration behind this technology is the fact that corporate people are swamped with information nowadays, and people needed a "portal" where information could be consolidated and retrieved easily.

The software solution was launched in the United States three months ago.

Jasmineii came about after Computer Associates acquired Sterling Software Inc., which developed the EUREKA:Portal technology.

Jasmineii provides access to a range of content available across corporate networks and the Internet—including such essential resources as webpages, realtime data feeds, Microsoft Office and Excel documents, and e-mail, along with corporate applications and databases.

Jasmineii also uses the company's Neugents ii technology, a personalization technology that adopts on the usage patterns of individuals or groups.

Computer Associates says that Jasmineii Portal 3.0 is "ideal" for delivering personalized information from diverse sources in visually compelling formats via the Web.

Corporate portals are designed to bring together different applications, content and services into one webpage. In short, it simplifies, personalizes and democratizes information for organizations.

Selling the "corporate portal" idea, however, has not caught on among corporations.

Puni Rajah, vice president of IDC Consulting for Asia Pacific said that studies showed that only a small percentage of customers were even thinking of implementing corporate portals.

"Putting up something like this—a corporate portal—requires change management in an organization," Rajah said.

Still, she believes that corporate portals are often misunderstood.

Corporate portals would not necessarily integrate applications, database and other company resources into a single Web-based interface. It is, she stressed, intended to give the user an "integrated view" of all company information and resources.

Jasmineii Portal is now used by the State of Utah court system, Goodyear Tire and Rubber Co., among others.

As a 100-percent Java application, Jasmineii Portal can support a full range of desktops and mobile, hand-held devices equipped with Java.

It also integrates with existing security technologies, including LDAP-based tools, to give administrators full control over the availability of sensitive information. It also supports multiple languages, including French, German, Spanish, Italian and Japanese.

Jasmineii Portal costs roughly $10,000.

Alleged ISR operator wins motion vs PLDT

By Erwin Lemuel G. Oliva

A SUSPECTED international simple resale (ISR) operator from Mandaue, Cebu recently got a big break after the courts junked cases filed against it by the Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co.

Late last year, PLDT filed a complaint through the Abello Concepcion Regala and Cruz law offices against HPS Software and Communication Corp.

Through the Presidential Anti-organized Crime Task Force (PAOCTF) in Visayas, a "search" was conducted on the premises of the computer company with PLDT personnel. The search resulted in the seizure of the company's equipment suspected of being used for alleged "illegal" activities.

In an e-mail interview, Stanley Yap, chief executive officer and managing director of HPS, said that the court has recently decided to "cancel search warrants" and has even ordered the abolished PAOCTF to return all seized equipment to the company, after PLDT failed to show evidence that the computer company was engaged in ISR.

Documents obtained by the Inquirer show the decision of the Mandaue Regional Trial Court Branch 55 to "grant the motion to quash the search warrants and return the things seized." The court quashed Search Warrant Nos. 2000-10-467 and 2000-10-468.

ISR operators are involved in so-called illegal bypass activities. They acquire international leased lines from the likes of PLDT, then "resell capacity" or international long distance calls at discounted rates to other companies or individuals.

The act of reselling capacity is considered illegal because it deprives PLDT of the subsidy they need for operating its local exchanges. PLDT claims it loses around P3 billion a year as a result of these illegal bypass operations.

Yap maintained that the computer firm is nothing more than a systems integrator which offers network integration services. It is also engaged in selling computer ware and has been a "total solutions provider" of customers in Visayas and Mindanao.

HPS has been using communication lines leased from local telephone service providers including PLDT.

Yap recalled that PLDT, "without due process," decided to cut their telephone lines as well as other lines used by other companies and persons in the building where HPS was housed in October last year.

That forced the HPS to file a countersuit amounting to P18.8 million against PLDT and the head of the telephone firm's Regional Revenue Assistance Center in Cebu.

In the countersuit, the company accused PLDT and Gerardo Jose Castro of disrupting its business by "illegally, whimsically, arrogantly, maliciously and without any due process" depriving the firm of telephone services.

PLDT has disconnected all HPS' telephone lines since Nov. 8, Yap said.

In a recent court ruling, however, the company got a temporary restraining order (TRO), stopping PLDT from disconnecting the telephone lines of HPS.

PLDT, however, chose to disobey the TRO, according to Yap. Thus the company has filed a petition asking the courts to cite PLDT and its officials in contempt.

The petition is now pending.

In a separate interview, Ramon Isberto, spokesperson for PLDT, told the Inquirer, that PLDT plans to appeal the decision of the regional trial court.

"In any event, we were advised by our lawyers that despite the ruling, this does not stop us from pursuing the case (against HPS) on violation of PD 401, which cover ISR activities," Isberto said.

"We have won our fight against PLDT before RTC, Mandaue City, Branch 55 which cancelled the search warrants and returned all the things seized. We also secured from RTC Branch 56 the order granting the injuction against PLDT. We are now waiting for the resolution from the Mandaue City Fiscal," Yap told Inquirer.

"Basically, PLDT has no leg to stand on. They're using below-the-belt methods for the purpose of destroying the business of HPS and our good name by issuing press releases made up of half truths and innuendos," he added.

Women grabbing the fast lane on the Net highway from men

WOMEN in the Asia Pacific are overtaking men on the fast lane of the Internet superhighway after taking their cue from the United States, an industry ratings agency announced.

"Other trends show women becoming more efficient in their Web behaviour than men and are showing an increasing willingness to purchase online," Nielsen//NetRatings said in its latest findings.

Women now make up 52 percent of the total "at-home" Internet population in the United States, overtaking the men, and are rapidly catching up in the Asia Pacific, according to a survey taken in May.

In Australia, women account for 48 percent of the total Internet population, followed by New Zealand with 46 percent; South Korea, 45 percent; Hong Kong, 44 percent; Singapore, 42 percent; and Taiwan, 41 percent.

The number of women surfers has increased by an average 36 percent across the region since January.

Women were also spending longer online during the day, while the men's surfing times peak in the evening, it said.

"Women were later adopters of the Internet but are making up for that lag now, and the speed with which they are coming online means ...women must become an important target segment for e-tailers to focus on," said Hoe Chin Fee, ACNielsen eRatings,com managing director for Southeast Asia.

She said online retailers should focus on ease and convenience as women spent less time on the Web because "they generally know what they are looking for and leave once they achieve their goal."

"Globally, we have found that women are a fussier breed of surfers than their male counterparts," she said.

Women in the Asia Pacific spent an average 12 hours online in May, compared to the men who surfed an average 14.5 hours. *AFP*

ISP mulls offering erotic content on webpages

T-ONLINE, the leading provider of Internet access in Europe and a unit of Deutsche Telekom, is considering whether to offer erotic content on its webpages, chair Thomas Holtrop said.

"You can make a lot of money with erotica. It is a lucrative buiness, which we are examining very closely," Holtrop told the Financial Times Deutschland.

The move, which would mark a change in strategy, proves how difficult it is for ISPs and Internet companies to find content that makes a profit.

It shows that only sex and erotic content currently makes money on the world wide web.

Recently, rival ISP Freenet, a unit of MobilCom, announced that it was teaming up with Orion and Audiofon to set up an erotica portal.

A recent study showed that 33 percent of Internet users in Germany regularly surf sex and erotica websites. *AFP*

AN ACT PROVIDING A SERVICE AREA SCHEME TO ALL INTERNET SERVICE PROVIDERS (ISPs), LIBERALIZING THE GRANTING OF ITS OPERATIONAL LICENSE TO OFFER EXPANDED SERVICES AND DEPLOY INTERNET BROADBAND INFRASTRUCTURE AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Philippines in Congress assembled:

SECTION 1. Title. This Act shall be known as the "Internet Universal Access and Liberalization Act of 2001."

SEC. 2. Coverage. All Internet Service Providers in the Philippines shall be covered by this Act.

SEC. 3. Declaration of State Policies. The state recognizes the vital role of communication and information in nation-building.

SEC. 4. Definition of Terms. Whenever used in this Act, the following terms shall mean: Broadband—it shall refer to any particular transmission medium or technology, capable of delivering digital signals of not less than 1.0 megabits of data per second to the user and 0.5 megabits of data per second from the user that enables the users to originate and receive high quality voice, data, graphics and video telecommunications.

Commission—as used in this Act, shall refer to the National Telecommunications Commission.

Internet—shall refer to the myriad of computer and telecommunications facilities, including equipment and operating software, which comprise the interconnected worldwide network of networks that employ the Transmission Control Protocol/Internet Protocol, or any predecessor or successor protocols to such protocol, to communicate information of all kinds.

Internet Service Provider or ISP—shall be used interchangeably in this Act, will refer to any services-based operators whose services is to combine computer processing, information storage, protocol conversion, and routing with transmission to enable subscribers to access Internet content and services as well as broadband multimedia services, and the transmission of such services.

Internet network/infrastructure—as used in this act, shall refer to satellite, wireline and wireless infrastructure utilizing Internet Protocol in delivering services.

Internet Protocol (IP)—a scheme that enables digital information to be routed from one network to another as necessary.

Internet Services—shall refer to interactive and multimedia applications utilizing IP to deliver data, image, video, music and voice and other similar signals.

Internet Telephony—shall refer to a voice telephone service utilizing the internet infrastructure as medium.

Voice Over Internet Protocol (VOIP)—shall refer to a technology of transmitting voice by converting the voice signal into data divided into small packets and sent using Internet protocol.

SEC. 5. Internet Service Provider Service Area Scheme—All Internet Service Providers shall be required to set up at least one provincial branch in a designated area to be assigned by the commission as a requirement for the granting of a certificate of registration for operation. Provided, however, that the main branch of operation of Internet Service Providers shall be allowed to be put up in the area of their preference. Provided further, that if the ISP's main choice of preference fall under the area covered by the scheme, such ISP shall no longer be required to set up another provincial branch. Provided finally, that for existing ISPs that still have no existing branch covered by the scheme, shall be required to comply with this Act as a requirement for the renewal of their expired certificate of registration currently being issued by the commission for a term of five (5) years.

SEC. 6. Internet Café of ISP Provincial Branch—Aside from offering Internet services, an ISP Provincial Branch shall have an option to operate an Internet café with a minimum of at least ten (10) personal computers connected to the Internet for purposes of leasing it out to the public.

SEC. 7. Designated Provincial Branch Areas Covered by the Scheme—The commission shall determine the designated Cities and Municipalities in the provincial areas to be covered by the Service Area Scheme based on the following order of priority:

a.) areas where no more than a single Internet Service Provider exist;

b.) areas with a consumer demand for Internet access;

c.) areas with the least presence of an available telecommunications infrastructure.

SEC. 8. Deployment of an Internet Network—Any provision of law to the contrary notwithstanding, all Internet service providers, if they may deem necessary, are authorized to deploy their own Internet network for exclusive use in delivering Internet services without the need to secure for a congressional franchise. Provided however, that such infrastructure shall utilize the broadband technology as defined in this Act.

SEC. 9. Internet Telephony Service—Internet Service Providers making use of their own Internet broadband network, may opt to expand their services by offering Internet telephony using Voice Over Internet Protocol (VOIP). The expanded ISPs services offering Internet telephony shall be classified by the commission as a value added service (VAS) that will be offered to the subscribers free of charge or at a cost significantly lower than the prevailing rate using a standard voice telephony.

SEC. 10. Implementing Agency—The commission shall enforce the provisions of this Act, and within fifteen (15) days from its effectivity, promulgate the necessary implementing rules and regulations.

SEC. 11. Repealing Clause.—The provision of any law, Issuance, Executive Order, Letter of Instruction, Rules or Regulations which are inconsistent with the provision of this act are hereby repealed, amended or modified accordingly.

SEC. 12. Separability clause. If for any reason, any provision of this Act is declared invalid or unconstitutional, the remainder of this Act shall not be affected.

SEC. 13. Effectivity. This Act shall take effect immediately upon publication in a newspaper of general circulation.

SEN. Vicente Sotto III's proposed bill on universal access.

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Solon bats for universal access in the provinces

By Erwin Lemuel G. Oliva

SEN. Vicente Sotto III recently filed a bill *(See copy of bill in the preceding page)* that would encourage Internet service providers (ISPs) to set up shop in the provinces.

With the goal of promoting universal access in the far-flung areas of the Philippines, the senator believes that the smaller players need not to get a franchise from government to own a broadband network.

"This bill, which would put in place a scheme to spread out the ISPs' operations, will not only provide the entire Philippines with universal access to the information highway. It will respond to the ISPs' growing demand for bandwidth," the senator said in an explanatory note to the proposed legislation.

Sotto pointed out that ISPs in the Philippines now number close to 300. They serve 300,000 subscribers.

Majority of these subscribers, however, are "confined" within Metro Manila and a few of the country's selected urbanized cities and municipalities.

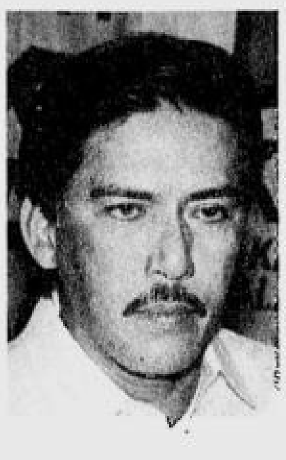
"ISPs cannot be blamed for being reluctant to operate outside the Metropolitan Manila area because of the lack of available telecom infrastructure in other parts of the country. Even these ISPs operating in Metro Manila still encounter problems of limited bandwidth. Nevertheless, [they] cannot keep up with the actual demand for Internet services," Sotto said.

Under Sotto's scheme, ISPs can render service "in any area of their choice," as long as they operate a branch in at least one provincial area where there is an "equal demand for Internet access."

Sotto also proposed that ISPs would be granted license to set up their own broadband network once they fulfill that requirement.

Currently, telecom companies and value-added service (VAS) providers—which is the label also given to ISPs—require government license to construct their own backbone under the Public Telecom Policy Act :

"Granting this long time request of most ISPs to have their own network will also be beneficial to the country. By having a broadband network spread throughout the country, we can take advantage of the benefits the technology can deliver such as simultaneous and speedy transmission of multimedia signals between subscribers. Through this means, our country will no longer be left out in the broadband race in the Asian region," Sotto said.



SOTTO: Internet in the barrios

"If the government is really keen in making e-commerce proliferate and play a dominant role in both the domestic and international economic activity, having a reliable Internet network and services all over the country is the way to go. Besides, e-commerce will be useless without the suitable medium to support it," the senator added.

Singapore firm to make RP hub of development

A SINGAPORE-BASED firm disclosed its plans of making the Philippines as hub for development of software and other high-tech services for the Asia-Pacific region.

"We want to make the Philippines as our base eventually. But right now, we intend to get our business running in this country," said Peter Joyce, vice president and director of ECforU Asia Pacific Pte. Ltd., in an interview with the INQUIRER.

Joyce is former head of Sara Lee's Finance for Household and Body Care Division worldwide and regional vice president for Sara Lee Bakery Asia.

The ECforU opened operations in the Philippines on December 2000 after the acquisition of local reseller

ABM Computech and local network security firm i-Sentry Solutions Inc., according to Remko Jacobs, vice president and director of ECforU.

The local operation is now under a holdings firm ECforU Philippines Inc., which currently employs close to a hundred Filipinos.

"We have established our business in the Philippines because it is an early adaptor of technology just like Australia. Also, there is a large labor force of knowledge workers here. I understand that the Philippines is being positioned next to India in software development," Jacobs said.

Jacob said that the company's initial plans involve consolidation of its various services in the Philippines.

"We intend to cross-sell our solutions to customers. But we're not saying that we're a one-stop shop. We just provide options for local customers," Jacobs said.

ECforU labels itself as a "leading application service provider offering complete single-sourced ASP solutions that seamlessly combine business strategy and technology with all the skills necessary to sustain your e-business success."

In the Philippines, the company, which has a market capitalization estimated at $5 million, aims to focus on "Web-enabling" traditional ERP applications, selling network and Web-based security solutions, and pushing a digital assets management software.

The company currently maintains its presence in Malaysia, Australia, Singapore and the Philippines.

"I think the timing is right for us," Jacobs remarked when asked to react to doing business in the Philippines amid political and economic uncertainty.

"Ours is not a hit-and-run strategy. It's a long term investment," he said.

Jacobs disclosed that ECforU will acquire or partner with local companies as part of its medium term plans in the Philippines.

Erwin Lemuel G. Oliva

Local Palm support, repair center opened

LOCAL distributor of Palm products Microwarehouse has recently signed an alliance with PalmDoctors, an independent service and repair facility for Palm handhelds.

Local Palm users can now avail of PalmDoctors' services, which include repair of cracked-screens, button replacements, memory upgrades, digitizer recalibration and other software-related problems.

Starting this month, all new boxes of selected Palm models will contain a PalmDoctors registration form. Filling out the form entitles the Palm owner to an extra year of warranty coverage, free of charge.

PalmDoctors will also register the owner's unit with Palm for its international warranty, and include the owner in PalmDoctors membership program through Microwarehouse.

PalmDoctors will soon offer end-user training to companies or individuals who would like to enhance their knowledge on the Palm.

PalmDoctors service center can be visited at 12 First St., Kapitolyo Pasig. It is currently working on making local retailers as service pick-up and drop-off points in strategic locations in Metro Manila.

More information about PalmDoctors can be viewed on its website at http://www.palmdoctors.com.ph. Interested parties may reach PalmDoctors through its hotline at Tel. No. 638-4233 or through e-mail address info@palmdoctors.com.ph.

Saving true type fonts with your documents

By Jerry Liao

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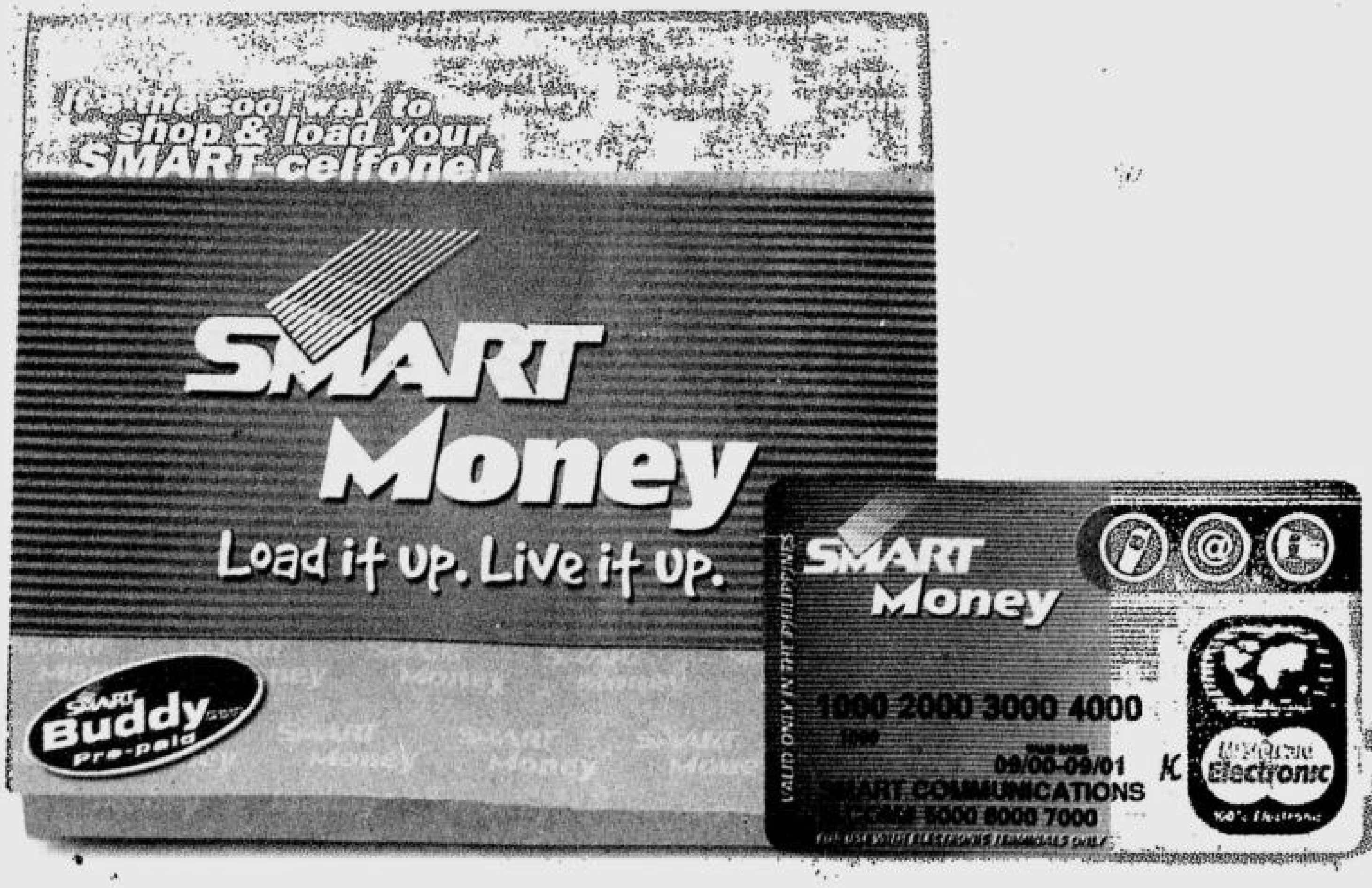
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Let's save and regreen the Mehan garden

SPACED OUT

Augusto F. Villalon

THE ISSUE goes beyond the actual boundaries of Mehan Gardens and the proposed City Colleges of Manila to be built there. A Park and Ride building is now rising on the northern side of the Gardens beside the Metropolitan Theater. The Arroceros Forest Park is between the Metropolitan Theater and the Pasig River. Both sites are part of the Mehan Gardens issue as well.

There is no question that educational facilities must be improved and new campuses are badly needed. Nor is there any question that congested Plaza Lawton is a major traffic bottleneck. But why put the two sites in Mehan Gardens?

The condition of the Gardens is symptomatic of the decay that Manila and many cities in the country have fallen into in recent years. Abandoned, covered in concrete and converted into a depot for vehicles towed because of traffic violations, Mehan Gardens was allowed to go to seed. It had become another concrete blight that was gradually taking over Manila and other cities in the Philippines.

People were not aware that Mehan Garden was declared a Historical Site of National Significance by the National Historical Institute, being the site of the former Parian where the Spanish colonials quartered the Chinese. It was also the site of the Jardin Botanico, developed in 1858 upon the request of the City of Manila. Maps of the botanical garden show that its boundaries stretched from the present Burgos

LET'S/ p.E2

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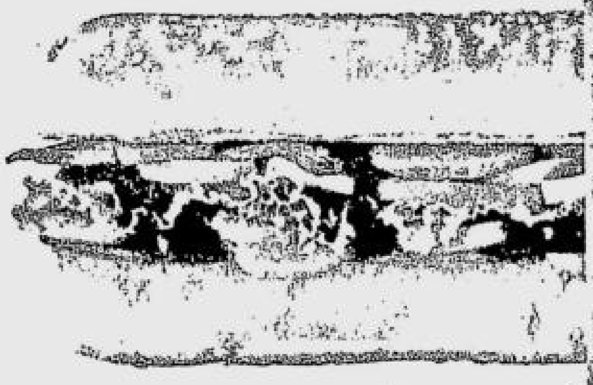

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Let's save and regreen the Mehan garden

(From page E1)

Drive to the Pasig River. The open space has since been reduced and what remains now is only the Mehan Gardens, Arroceros Forest Park and Plaza Lawton. Instead of the open park that it was intended to be, Mehan has become a network of road interchanges.

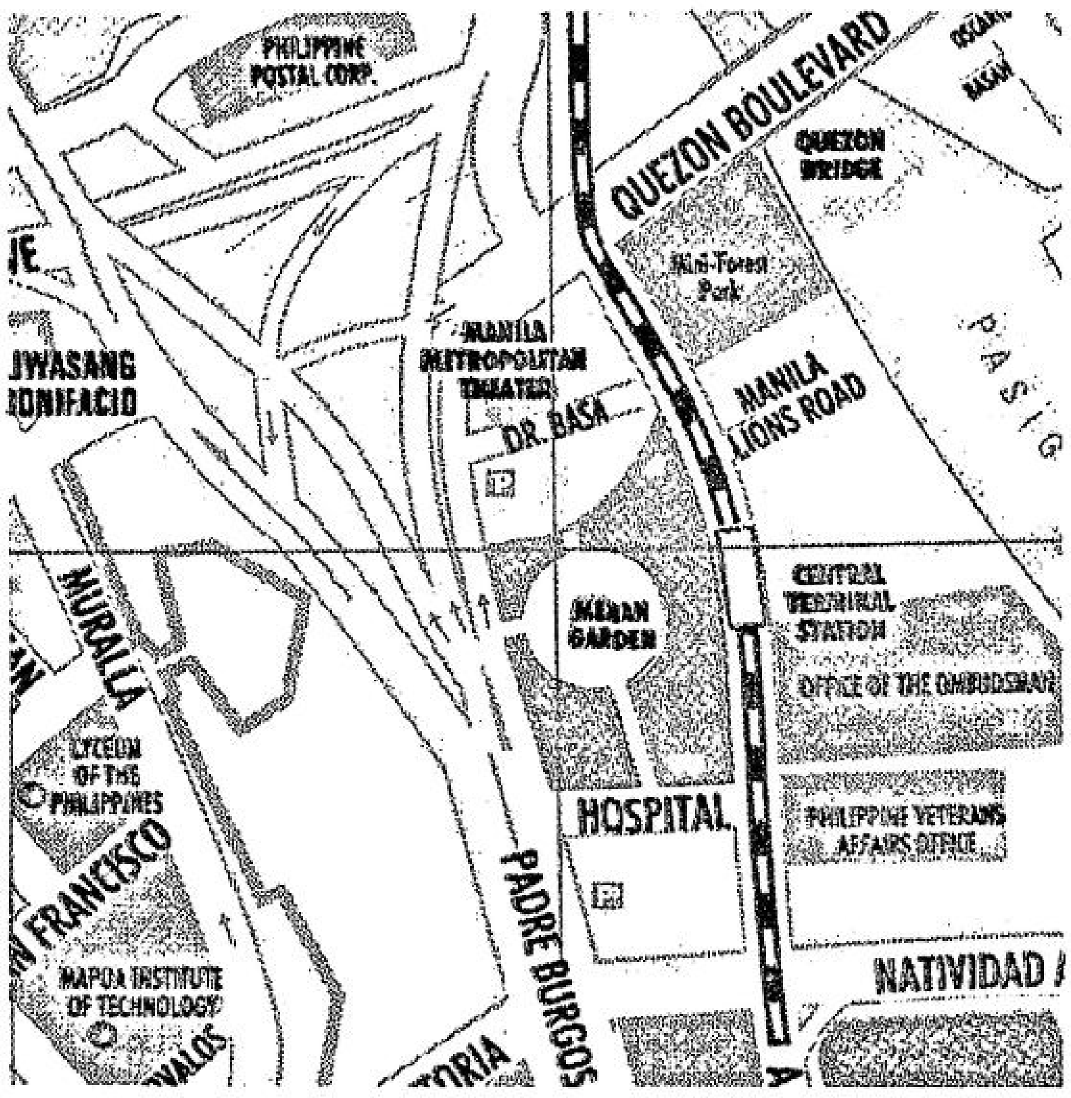
Archeological importance

The National Museum identified the entire Mehan Gardens-Arroceros Forest Park-Plaza Lawton area as having national archeological importance because of its historic antecedents and its location close to the Pasig River where traders docked in pre-Hispanic times. No construction should be done without archeological clearance from the National Museum. Test diggings conducted by the Museum last week yielded pre-Hispanic Manila "ware" pottery and Chinese porcelain, proving that it is indeed an archeological site.

The latest development on the Mehan Gardens issue was the release by Environment and Natural Resources Secretary Heherson Alvarez of a cease and desist order. Alvarez said the city government, in cutting down old trees, violated an earlier environment compliance certificate (ECC) issued for the project. He added that the historicity of the site "cannot be wiped out of memory."

Actually, the saving of Mehan Gardens is an issue that goes beyond the historic. It involves life itself. We are no longer breathing healthy air in the cement jungle that Manila has become. We have to protect our lungs, plain and simple. We have to be able to stay alive in our cities.

By restoring the trees that once grew in the Mehan Gardens, we can regenerate the polluted urban air that we breathe. Urban parks are the filters that produce the oxygen to keep us breathing properly. Now that Manila officially ranks among the most polluted cities of the world, isn't saving Mehan Garden and all other open green spaces a matter of life or death?



PHOTOS BY HERITAGE CONSERVATION SOCIETY'

We really must protect not only the endangered Mehan Gardens but others like it that are decaying in cities all over the country. Unlike Manila's Gardens, other urban open spaces are not protected by any legislation, severely endangering their existence.

Legislation needed

A comprehensive national legislation listing and protecting heritage places and cultural landscapes all over the country has to be drawn up to protect pockets of urban green.

Sen. Gregorio Honasan has introduced the Landmarks Bill on behalf of the Heritage Conservation Society in October 2000. Rep. Florencio Abad filed a parallel bill in Congress a month earlier. The bill is strongly supported by Sen. Loren Legarda, the Department of Tourism, the Department of Finance, the National Commission for Culture and the Arts and other government agencies.

The Landmarks Bill categorizes and lists sites to be protected, identifies protective measures and guidelines, provides incentives for protection of heritage sites and cultural landscapes, and outlines a national management system for protected sites.

Going back to the Mehan Gardens, consider the possibilities. Think of Mehan Gardens as the centerpiece of a large integrated green area that stretches from the Pasig River, encompassing the City Hall, Metropolitan Theater, Post Office.

The overall vision begins with the Arroceros Forest Park at the foot of Quezon Bridge, sweeping into a re-landscaped Plaza Lawton that becomes people-friendly after the roadways are redesigned so that much of the ground becomes open space again. West of Plaza Lawton, the green area connects to Intramuros through Puerta Parian where at present overgrown foliage covers the abandoned Asean Garden.

The idea of a large green area in central Manila is not far-fetched. The foundations for a network of green spaces around Mehan Gardens already exist. All that is needed is an overall vision for urban greening, which is sadly lacking from all of our Philippine cities.

The Heritage Conservation Society aims to participate in providing a rational and sustainable vision for the Mehan Gardens without compromising the ecological, educational and cultural requirements of the City of Manila.

It is time to take a stand. The lungs you save will probably be your own. Participate in saving Mehan Gardens and all open green spaces in Manila. Write the mayor, your senator and congressman. E-mail your signature of support to the Heritage Conservation Society secretariat at hcsphils@yahoo.com or download a signature sheet from www.hcsphils.org and fax the completed sheets to 522-2497.

E-mail the author at afv@pacific.net.ph

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Davao playwriting contest launched

THE SAMAHAN ng mga Guro ng Panitikan sa Dabaw (Sagup-Dabaw) and JS Gaisano Inc. are sponsoring a playwriting competition.

The JS Gaisano Prize for College One-Act Play is open to all student theater groups in colleges and universities in Davao, Tagum and Digos cities. Winners will receive cash prizes of P10,000 for first place, P5,000 for second place, and P3,000 for third place.

The contest, the first in Mindanao, aims to revive, promote and develop theater productions, discover talented college students in the field of drama, and promote healthy competition among the different colleges.

Entries must be written in either Bisaya or Tagalog by a student and/or faculty member of the participating institution, and must be authenticated by the dean of the college as original, and then notarized. It should deal with issues affecting Mindanao.

An elimination round will be held to draw up a short list of five entries that will be staged for two days in November. Winning groups will perform on weekends at JS Gaisano Citimall, Ilustre Street, Davao City.

Artist Bella holds craft courses

INDUSTRIAL artist and painter Victor Bella, fine arts graduate from Maastricht Academy of Visual Arts, Holland, opens a new schedule for a series of weekend art courses known as the "Arts Inspiration Series for Fun, Gift-Giving and Profit." The workshop schedule and description can be accessed at www.geocities.com/vicdtor_bella/schedule.html.

Group courses include Artistic Candle-Making with Decorative Mold-Making, Decorative Painting on Glass Metal and Ceramics, Acrylic Painting on Canvas, Flower Sculpture, Figurine-Making and Decorative Silicon Rubber Mold-Making.

Artistic Candle-Making will cover how to produce candles such as figurine, layered, container, gel and floating, with special features such as aroma therapy, scented, slow-burning, dripless, hand-painted and insect-repellant versions, including decorative mold-making techniques.

Decorative Painting on Glass, Metal and Ceramics will teach how to make inexpensive materials sparkle with color and elegance. Projects include gemstone perfume bottles, floating candle container, canister, mugs and vases.

Figurine-Making covers how to make transparent, translucent, opaque figurines, jewelry boxes and picture frames out of resin.

How to Paint Nature in Acrylic includes the all-essential-step and basic and advance techniques in painting on canvas. Students will learn how to handle painting with ease and confidence in approaching their preferred subject ranging from landscapes, flowers, underwater and cloudscapes.

Silicon Rubber Mold-Making will teach how to produce decorative mold out of extremely durable rubber for mass reproduction of artworks such as figurines, candles, jewelry boxes and picture frames.

Flower Sculpture includes the creation of non-withering vibrant and colorful flowers in both classic and modern styles using either oven-fire-able or air-drying clay. Flowers to be produced are orchids, roses, calla lily, daisies, tulips and sunflowers.

Tutorial programs provide students a special promo package of all the courses, given in a one-on-one training schedule by appointment.

Participating students will receive complete and updated world standard information with actual hands-on. Interested participants who wish to see work samples may visit www.geocities.com/victor_bella for work samples, for schedule visit www.geocities.com/victor_bella/schedule.html.

Call 890-3778 or (0917) 757-6690 from 10 a.m.-12 p.m. and 1-5 p.m., Mondays to Fridays. All visitations are by appointment. Lessons on Candle-Making will start on July 14-15, to be held at 30 Polaris St., Bel-Air, Makati.

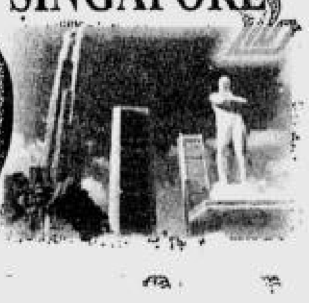

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Table diplomacy in Berlin

BY FAITH BAUTISTA

NO, the Philippine Ambassador was not invited to the German foreign minister's dinner. But his table made it to Foreign Minister Joschka Fischer's residence.

Victoria Zaide, wife of Philippine envoy to Germany, set a stunning table at the First International Table Setting Exhibit in Berlin. This was supposed to be just a table setting exhibit. But on the insistence of the organizers, the Philippine embassy staff had to haul over one part of the embassy residence acacia and beach pebble table to the exhibit. June Abaigar, the embassy utility man, quipped that the effort was like carrying a cross on Good Friday.

Philippine embassy ladies who took turns at manning the exhibit were the spouses of embassy foreign service officers: Cely Jimeno, Annie Comia, Precie Confiado and the administrative attaché Luz van Opstal. The ladies provided some artful distraction from the table setting with their own couture of Filipina butterfly dress, *mestizas* and *balintawak*. Zaide wore a Jean Goulbourn original.

Sixteen embassies participated at a non-culinary exhibit. Food was not allowed, but some cheated.

This was a brainchild of Wilkommen Berlin International Ladies Club and Chantal Behncke, Parisienne wife of the honorary consul of Slovenia and DaimlerChrysler director for international relations Eckehard Behncke. Proceeds of the exhibit and its coffee-table book will go to the German heart foundation.

Dinner for two

The Philippine exhibit had a novel theme, "Tête-à-tête mais pas vis-à-vis (Head-to-head but not face-to-face)," interpreting dinner for two lovers. It was one of the favorites of the German press. Two 1950s *batibot* chairs, popular at Filipino *carinderias* or small budget-size eateries, were positioned diagonally. Guests were told that the chairs did not sit opposite because of a traditional Filipino "no touch" custom, which frowned upon man and woman looking directly into each other's eyes. Ergo, *tête-à-tête mais pas vis-à-vis.*

The Philippine table was created by Fr. Pierino Rogaldi (Italian missionary and carpenter by vocation) and Filipino architect Joel Abellanosa in 1995. It combined a 40-year-old Philippine monkey pod *acacia* felled by tropical storm with pebbles from Matabungkay beach.

The Philippines shared the shell-lined *wintergarten* with the Swedish table—ideal for both our tropical setting and the crustacean smorgasbord.

Other crowd-drawers were the Ukraine wedding table which supplied "bride and groom," and the Turkmenistan "dining on flying carpet." Predictably, USA had traditional Thanksgiving dinner, and the British, "high tea."

Other diplomatic tables were Spain (Don Juan dinner), India (Diwali festival of lights), Japan (New Year table), Latvia (nature and earthenware), Tunisia (Eid Fitr feast), Israel (Yom Kippur), Italy (fireside dinner), Germany (KPM fine bone china) and Bulgaria (harvest).

Spanish Ambassador Jose Pedro Sebastian de Erice feigned disappointment at the French title of the Philippine exhibit, "... after nearly four centuries of Hispanic ties!"

The Philippines had *acacia* dinner plate, woven *nito* under-plate, carabao horn cutlery, with coconut shell spoon and fork for dessert. (A mass-produced plate is exported to a Japanese steakhouse with a guaranteed life span of 10 months). Plates, cutlery and *batibots were* all loaned by exporter Ben Morales of SKM Art Craft Corp.

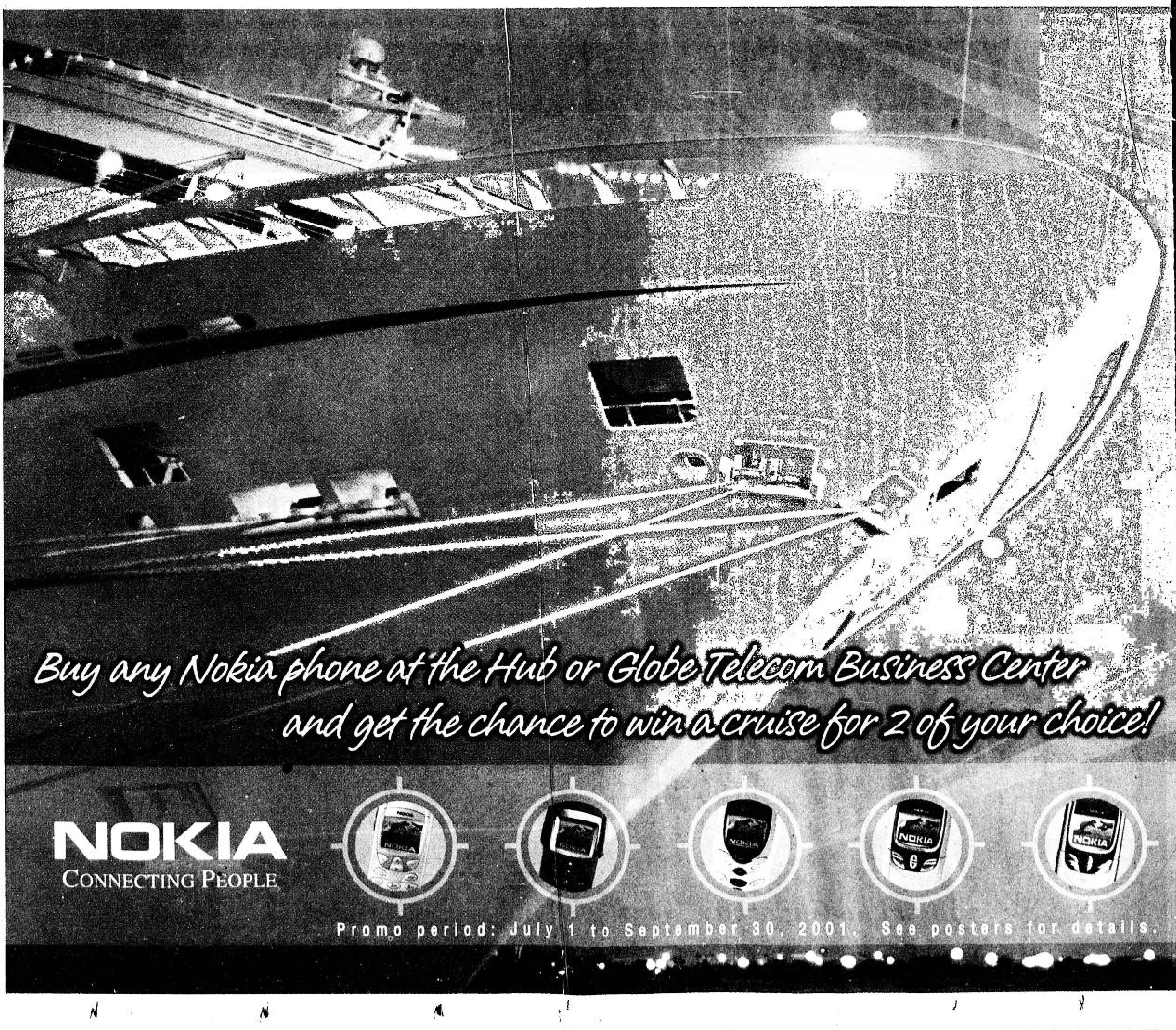
Mother-of-pearl bread plate and caviar spoon and fork service from Tesoro's; Philippine water tumbler complemented by Rosenthal papyrus-design glasses for red and white wine. Two floral arrangements gave accents: A bamboo *kawit* for *tuba* housed a rare bird-of-paradise. A Leonardo goldfish bowl, floating lotus flower and candle—and beneath the water the inviting Boracay beach sand with Philippine corals and shells.

Empty plates never looked more ravishing!

VICTORIA Zaide (second from right) and the ladies of the Philippine embassy (from left) Cely Jimeno, Precie Confiado, Annie Comia and Luz van Opstal, with their table setting

JOY Marie Snell, lady of Chargé d'affaires of the US Embassy, sets up the American Thanksgiving Table with pumpkins and pilgrims and guest table setting.

CHANTAL Behncke with Kalpan a Sen, lady of the Indian ambassador, at the Diwali festival table



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PLAC launches literary lecture series

THE PHILIPPINE Literary Arts Council launches "Homage: The PLAC Literary Lecture Series on the Masters" at 10:30 a.m. on July 11 at the UST Center for Creative Writing and Studies.

This initial informal lecture, on the poetry of Jose Garcia Villa, the first National Artist for Literature, will be delivered by Alfred "Krip" Yuson, after which an open forum will be conducted.

Aiming to provide a fresh perspective and revisioning on the works of departed Filipino poets and fiction writers, the lecture series will be held every second Wednesday of the month in various university venues throughout the country.

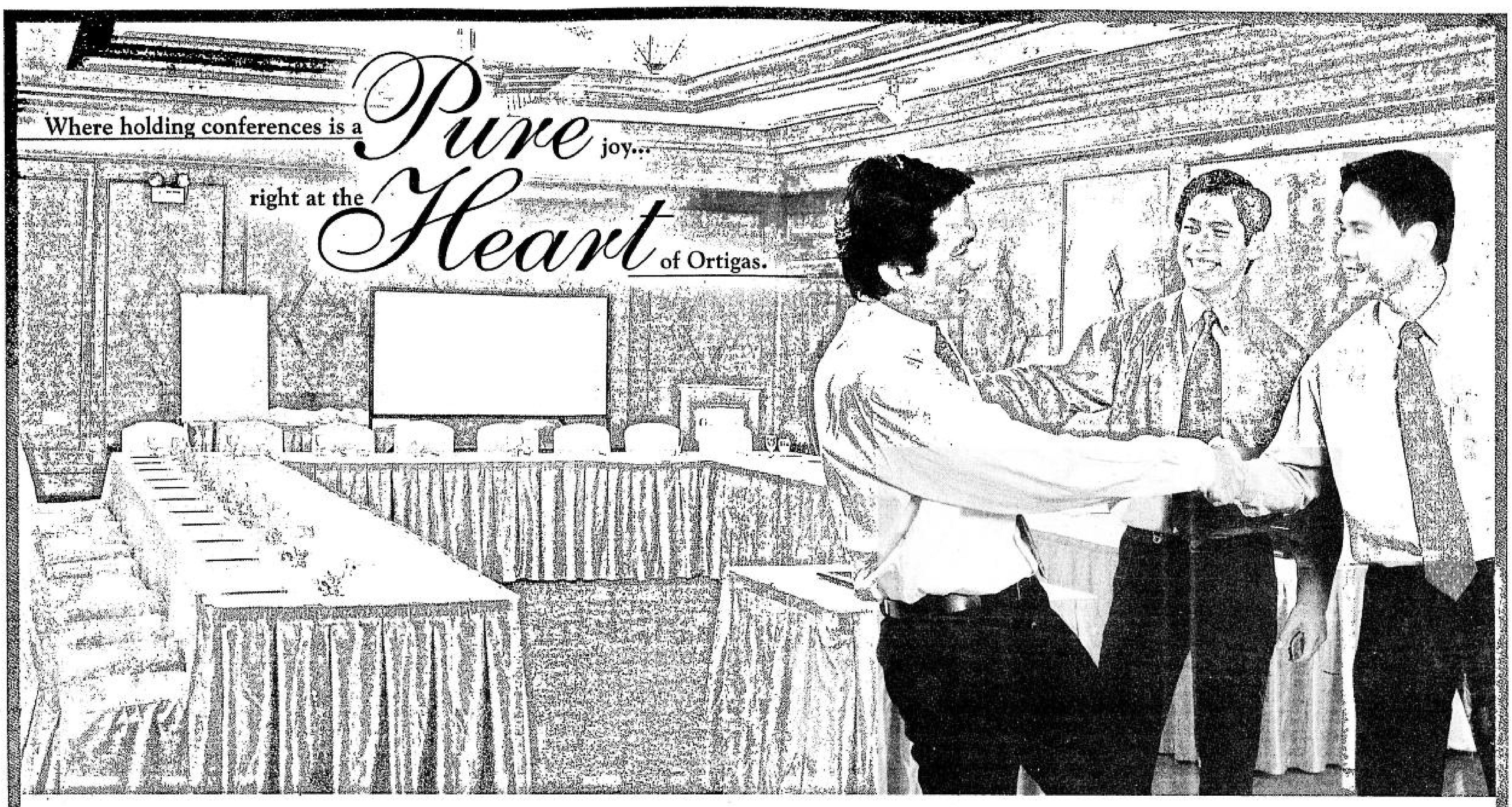
On Aug. 8, UP professor Gemino H. Abad will deliver his critique on poet Amador Daguio, with the Bienvenido Santos Writing Center of De La Salle University hosting.

The third lecture will have DLSU professor Cirilo F. Bautista assessing the poetry of Rafael Zulueta da Costa at Far Eastern University on Sept. 12.

The rest of the lectures, which will eventually be compiled into a book, will involve Dr. Ophelia A. Dimalanta on the fiction of Dr. Edilberto K. Tiempo; Cristina Pantoja-Hidalgo on the fiction of Estrella Alfon; Marjorie Evasco on the poetry of Angela Manalang Gloria; Marne Kilates on the poet Luis G. Dato, and UP Mindanao Chancellor Ricardo M. de Ungria on poet Ricaredo Demetillo.

The fiction of National Artist NVM Gonzalez and Bienvenido Santos will be the subject of lectures of Butch Dalisay and Charlson Ong, respectively, while still to be scheduled are the lectures of J. Neil Garcia of UP Diliman, Butch Macansantos of UP Baguio, Simeon Dumdum Jr. of Cebu City and Cesar Ruiz Aquino of Silliman University.

Writers, critics, teachers and students and literature lovers are invited to attend the monthly lectures being offered in tribute to an older generation of poets and writers as a commemorative activity of PLAC's 20th anniversary this year.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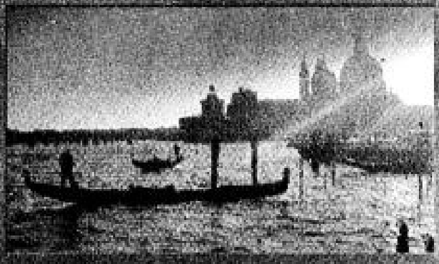

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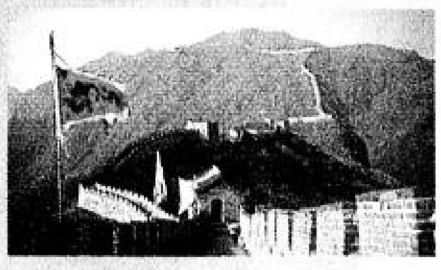

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Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 0905, Series of 2001

JEVIJOE Vitug

POSING with his art work Kiko Umadhay

ARIS Bagtas

WILFREDO Offermaria

ANER Sebastian

Artists depict perils of age of technology

By Gino Dormiendo

A GROUP show offers gallery-goers a wealth of opportunities to view art as practiced by artists who must rally to the cause of unity in the face of overwhelming diversity. One such group is the newly established www.artrese.com, composed of 13 highly innovative, relatively new and promising artists working in various media and techniques.

As suggested by their name, the group's inaugural show at the Metropolitan Gallery, Art Walk, SM Megamall, demonstrates the pervasive influence of technology on life and art. Each of the 13 members was free to interpret the suggested theme in four works, the first three in identical square format and the fourth as a single vertically shaped work.

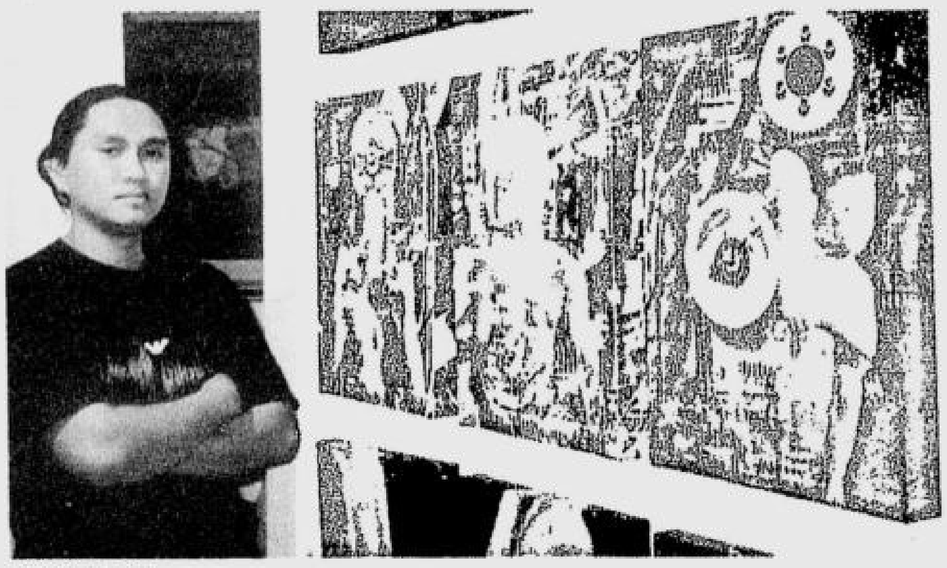
Two members of the group, Norman Dreo and Ronaldo Ruiz, have won the AAP Annual and the Phillip Morris Art Contest, respectively. The rest are art professors, self-employed entrepreneurs, college dropouts, or people working in corporate offices, with different backgrounds and careers and using various media and techniques.

Dreo's three-panel entry, "System," reveals his continuing obsession with the effects of technology on a world gone haywire. He aptly depicts a maze of images in a postmodern mode, a jungle of signs and symbols.

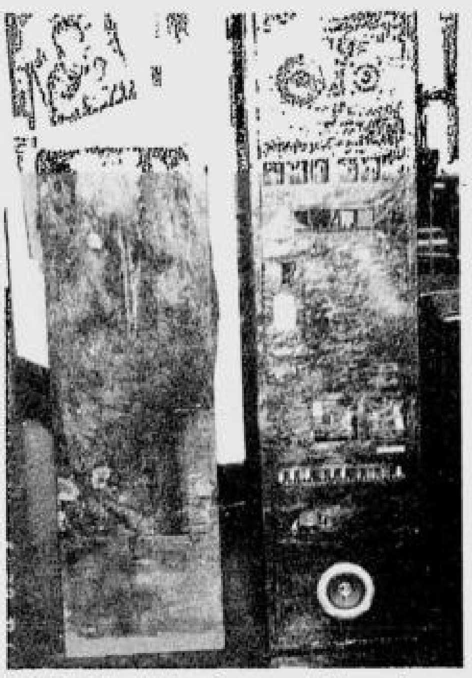
All four works by Ruiz, a witty expressionist with a heart for sociopolitical issues, as shown in his Phillip Morris winning piece, "The Master," are titled "O.T." It is an allusion to how mankind is constantly racing against time,

Ruiz wields a deft hand in conjuring a world supplanted by time, man's face almost obliterated by clocks dangerously ticking like time bombs.

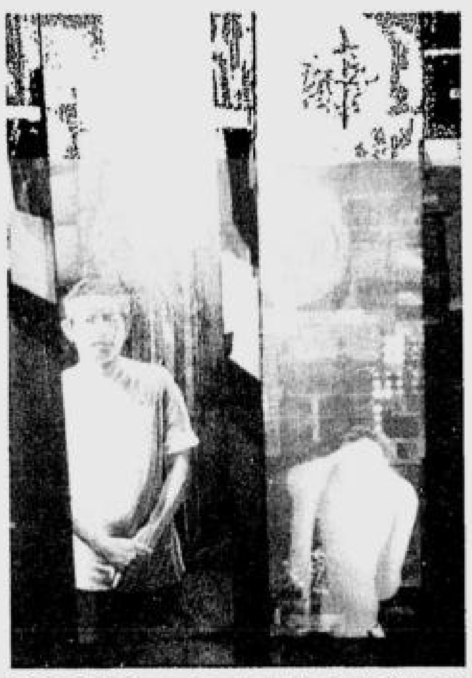
Tomas Daquioag sends out a satirical message of how labor can become obsolete in the face of widespread computerization in "Obsolete," which captures the harmful effects of modernization, downsizing and retrenchment. Workers are shown contemplating the threat posed by machines on their livelihood and existence.



RONALD Ruiz



WORKS by Mideo Cruz and Edmund Samonte



TOMAS Dacquioag's "Man" (left) and Ronald Ruiz's "Half Naked Man"

The horrors of cloning are depicted in Wilfredo Offemaria's "Cloned." It shows the birth of cloned babies, their serial image framed in a square, their physical attributes similar to the nuts and bolts produced in an assemblyline.

Francisco Umadhay's "Scent of Disorder" is reminiscent of the work of the late Onib Olmedo in the way the figures are distorted and seemingly mangled by some painful or traumatic experience. Umadhay has yet to come into his own and establish his identity.

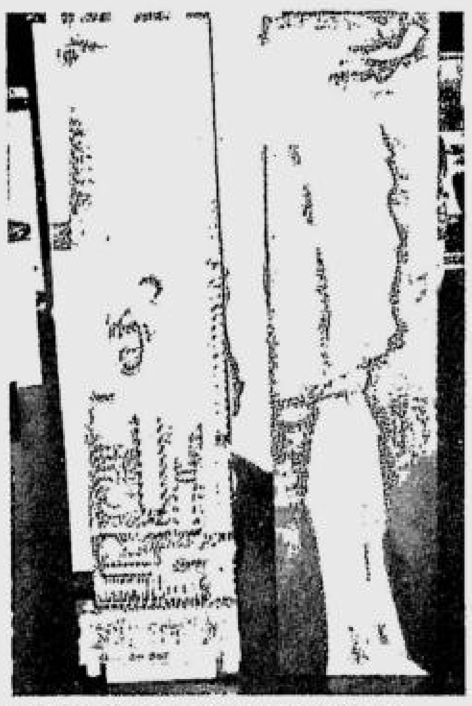
Mideo Cruz pokes satirical jabs at the follies and foibles of the Pinoy, his legendary penchant for muckraking that has brought him untold misery. Although the pieces are depicted in a highly literal manner, complete with giveaway titles and graphics, the work nonetheless reveals our fondness for rumor-mongering now most evident in texting, in which Filipinos are second to none.

In Ricardo Reyes Jr.'s "P're Dito May Signal," the artist offers a peek into the outside world through windows, which probably says a lot about the texting madness. Reyes' style is expressive in a realistic vein. He knows how to deliver his message within a message without being too literal about it.

The mixed media pieces, "Etnoman Mix" and "Etnoman Sound" by Edmond Samonte, show the inside of the sound system, its circuit of wires and bolts looking like a tangled web of human intestines.

Not all pieces in the show image the horror and terror of the information age.

Jevijoe Vitug's "Embrance on Line" shows a pair of lovers in a passionate, almost claustrophobic, manner suggesting perhaps that lovers will survive the worst technological assault on humanity. Aris Bagtas and Raul Rodriguez prefer to wax philosophical and spiritual about the battle against the new invaders. Bagtas believes religion has taken precedence over free will in "Disciple of the Metal God." Rodriguez reveals a Sartre-like approach in "Existential Deconstruction," brooding over humankind's fate in the wake of a senseless war.



WORKS by Sam Renaso (right) and Norman Dreo (left)

All in all, the show offers surprises from this younger generation of artists, revealing their concerns, fears and obsessions. The uneven, tentative quality of the works suggests the predicament and plight of the contemporary artist who, in exploring the subject, must face up to the challenge and promise of the information age. But most importantly, the show is laudable in its effort to bring together people with divergent concerns all in the name of art, which has proven once again to be a strong unifying force.

De Leon at West Gallery; Co at Galleria Duemila; Asean Art at GSIS Museum

VISUAL ARTS

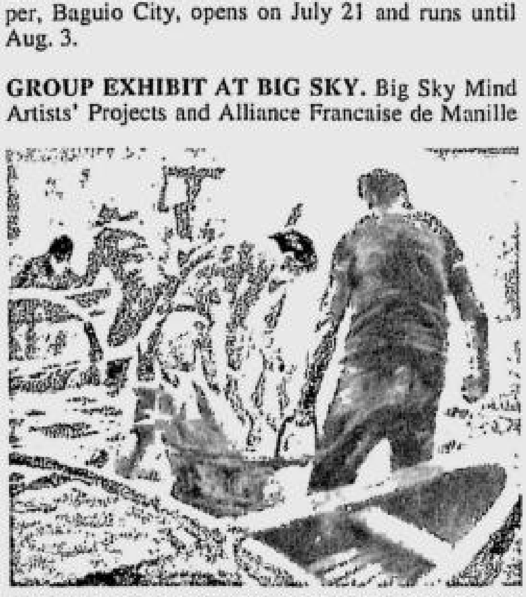
R.M. de Leon mounts his latest show dubbed "New Pictures" on July 12 at the West Gallery, 3/L Glorietta 4, Ayala Center, Makati City. The exhibit will run until July 24.

CO AT GALLERIA DUEMILA. Negrense artist Charlie Co mounts his latest exhibit dubbed "Late Night Show" at the Galleria Duemila, 4/L SM Megamall, July 17-29. The artist puts a black-and-white TV set in front of viewers with the contemporary issues pictured on his canvas. Call 831-9990.

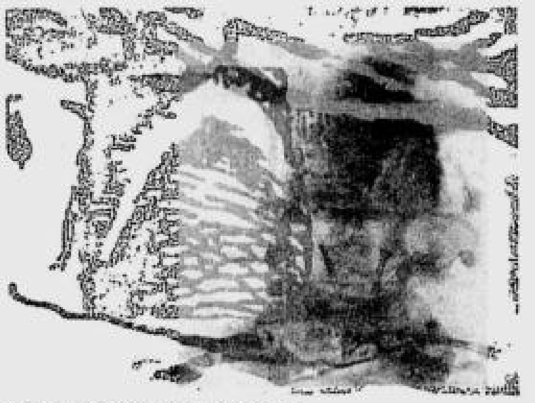
ASEAN ART AT GSIS. Asean Art Associates has opened "AseanARToday Philippines" at the Museo ng Sining of the GSIS. Artists include Nunelucio Alvarado, Lilia Amansec, Elmer Borlongan, Jeho Bitancor, Daniel Coquilla, Antipas Delotavo, Kikok Escora, Alfredo Esquillo, Emmanuel Garibay, Jose Legaspi, and John Frank Sabado. Ongoing until July 28. Call 551-1301

ESCORA IN BAGUIO CITY. "Emotional Baggage," a series of drawings by Fernando Escora at Tam-awan Artists' Village, Tam-awan Pinsao Proper, Baguio City, opens on July 21 and runs until Aug. 3.

GROUP EXHIBIT AT BIG SKY. Big Sky Mind Artists' Projects and Alliance Francaise de Manille will present "9 Objects: A Tribute to Marcel Duchamp." The exhibit commemorates his conceptual approach to art as a mental act, which has come to dominate art of the 20th century. Participating artists include Juan Alcazaren, Roberto Chabet, Nilo Ilarde, Lani Maestro, Bernardo Pacquing, Gary-Ross Pastrana, Lirio Salvador, Wire Tuazon and Alvin Zafra. The exhibit opens on July 15, 7 p.m., at the Big Sky Mind, 66B Doña Juana Rodriguez Ave., New Manila, QC. Call 725-5681.



BING Siochi mounts his third solo exhibit at Asia Art Gallery, 6/L Shangri-La Plaza. Dubbed "Buhay Pinoy," it features the life of rural folk, such as harvesting, bringing in the catch from the sea, first grandchildren or bringing in the carabaos from pasture.



"TRUNK" by R.M. de Leon

TRAVELING EXHIBIT. "Four Artists Make a Difference" is a traveling show of paintings by four artists with four different disabilities but have exceptional talent. The exhibit will run on July 19-23 at the SM Megamall, in time for the National Disability Prevention.

CANVAS SOCIETY EXHIBIT. The Society of Concerned Artists for Nature and Visual Aesthetics (Canvas Society) will mount its first anniversary group exhibition, "In Search of New Dimensions," on July 15, 6 p.m., at the Rex Oasis of Arts and Culture Foundation, 84 P. Florentinio St., Sta. Mesa Heights, QC. Participating artists are Rhyan Abud, Simonnette Aguirre, Felix Amoncio, Ed Bado, Reiland Blancaflor, Mar Bongalon, Eugene Canete, Lady Cocal, Gregorio Dantes Jr., Charles de Nava, Juliet de la Torre, Raquel Faustinorio, Baltazar Fornaliza, Alona Galeria, Carolina Lee, Harlan Lee, Jose Madrilejos, Alan Malunes, Babes Molata, Ed Nanquil, Josephine Neffe, Jonathan Olarte, Morena Ramos, Zeus Ruiz, Bing Siochi, David Temperante, Harry Torres and Nards Zepeda.

CAVITE EXHIBIT. Dasmariñas Cavite-Museo De La Salle, with the De La Salle University-Dasmariñas Cavite Studies Center, will sponsor an exhibit titled "Glimpses of Cavite's Past: From the Collec-

DE LEON/ p.E7

Travel with the artists in ongoing show

By Marci Melchor

THE SATURDAY Group of Artists has always earmarked a week in mid-July for its traditional annual show. It is also almost traditional that a few go abroad to expose themselves to the new passions in art.

"Traveling is a feast of all senses... because it helps the artist focus on himself and his art," says Mauro "Malang" Santos, who, together with James Onglepho, attended the Taipei Art Festival earlier this year.

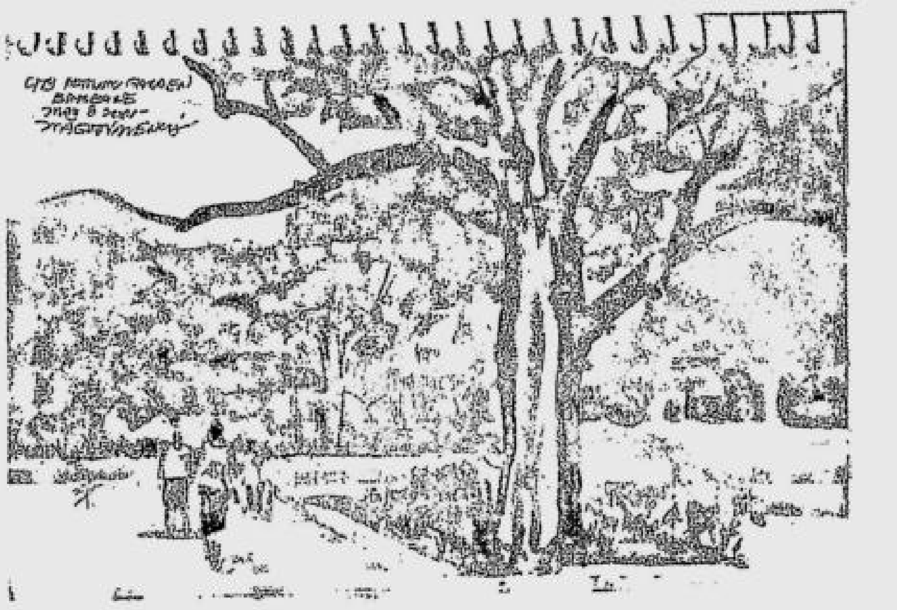
Traveling light, the two took the barest minimum of art equipment—a small sketchbook and a waterproof pen.

Malang regards his sketchbooks as almost sacrosanct, the drawings very personal and intimate, revealing the soul and the individuality of the artist. So, whether sitting on a park bench savoring the smell of roasting *castañas* or in the busy hotel lobby in Taipei, Malang continues to sketch his favorite subjects—women, shanties and landscapes.

On the other hand, Magoo Valencia took a month's leave of absence from his ad firm, Valencia & Arcega, to visit his eldest son in Brisbane, Australia. Following Malang's advice, he painted the Brisbane scenery. He felt that sketching what he saw was far better than capturing it on film.

However, winter was far too cold and windy for this warm-blooded Pinoy artist. So he often opted for the comforting warmth of the Queensland Museum, which fortunately featured works of the masters, Picasso, Renoir, Monet and other Impressionists. Seeing the magnificent canvases, Magoo felt it was a month well spent Down Under.

Frank Verano, the SG's membership director, visited his daughter Joanne, who is taking her master's in art and museum management at the Art Institute of Chicago. Frank chose to visit the concert halls of the major cities of the United States—New York, Boston, Chicago and Washington, D.C.



CITY Botanical Garden, Brisbane, by Magoo Valencia

He explained that, they played the kind of classical music he enjoyed listening to while painting. He added that to be a true visual artist, one should also be keenly aware of the senses of hearing and touch. But Frank could not resist the temptation to view the many new acquisitions of New York's Metropolitan Museum and Washington's Rational Gallery.

Together with six other members of the talented Gonzales clan, Ambassador Rafael Gonzales held his second successful art exhibit at the Philippine Center in New York City in April. After serving the Philippine government in various diplomatic and consular posts for 45 years—from 1947 until his retirement in 1992—"Amba" is still active in the business, social, sports and art world of Metro Manila.

In September this year and February 2002, he will hold art shows in Germany and San Francisco. He also plans to exhibit in the various other embassies he has served—Hong Kong, Beijing, Poland and London.

On July 7, these five artist-friends, with guest artists led by Arturo Luz, and the rest of the Saturday Group, presented the SG's 33rd anniversary show at the Art Center, SM Megamall. Their canvases celebrated the sensory delights of their trips and experiences abroad.

The exhibit of the Saturday Group led by Malang, Cris Cruz, Magoo Valencia and King Verano, at the Art Center, SM Megamall, Mandaluyong City is open until July 21. Participating artists include Frank Valencia, one of the newest members, National Artist Arturo Luz, Bencab, Nardz Cruz, Prudencio Lamarroza, Manny Baldemor, Pandy Aviado, Jun Martinez and Caloy Gabuco.

SEVEN Filipino artists led by Rosario Bitanga were recently invited to exhibit their works in Chicago and New York to celebrate Philippine Independence. Participants included Sharon Fuentes, Wivinee Red Buhay, Antoni Chan, William Siy-Tin, Omi Reyes and Paul Balan. Shown above are (from left) Willi Red Buhay, Omi and Susan Reyes, Sharon Fuentes, Dean Rosario Bitanga, Wivinee Red Buhay, Antonio Chan, William Siy-Tin and Paul Balan.

De Leon at West Gallery . . .

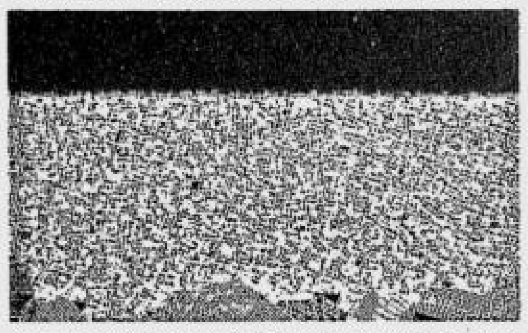
(From page E6)

tion of Don Gervasio E. Pangilinan." The exhibit features photographs, manuscripts and artifacts showing the life of the late Don Gervasio E. Pangilinan, a Caviteño revolutionary, and of the 19th-century Caviteños in general. The exhibit will run on July 13-Aug. 31 at the Zaguan, G/F Museo De La Salle, De La Salle University, Dasmariñas, Cavite. Call 844-7832/9116, (046) 416-4531 local 3151.

TWO-MAN SHOW AT THE AYALA. "Buen Viaje," a two-man exhibit of works by Anthony Palomo and Riel Jaramillo, is on view at the Ayala Museum until July 22. Call 812-1191 to -97 local 106.

'SHOTS AND STROKES.' The Philippine Heart Center Art Gallery Committee presents its second group art exhibit dubbed "Shots and Strokes" on July 9-19 at the G/F Medical Arts Building, East Avenue, Diliman, QC. It features the works of Alan Fruelda, Sonia Arellano, Melada de Jesus, Don Batingan, Grace de Jesus, Bong Doctor and Rogelio D. Caringal.

AUSTRALIAN EMBASSY EXHIBIT. World-renowned printmaker Jorg Schmeisser and Australian Ambassador John Buckley open "Groundwork" on July 9, 6:30 p.m., at the Australia Centre. The Australian embassy is staging this prints exhibition in celebration of Australia's Centenary of Federation. The Manila exhibition will feature prints by England Banggala, Fiona Foley, Treahna Hamm, Fatima Kantilla, Emily Kngwarreye, Andy Maluwara, Banduk Marika, Narritjin Maymuru, Arone Raymond Meeks, Geoerge Milpurrurru, Jimmy Pike, Bevan Hayward, Sadie Singer, Bede Tungatulum, Judy Watson, Albert Waradjima and Daisy Whiskey. The exhibit will be on view until Aug. 10. Call 754-6135.



"**WHITE** City" by National Artist Arturo Luz is on view at the Art Center, SM Megamall until July 21.

WRITING WORKSHOP. Likhaan: The UP Creative Writing Center is now accepting applications for fellowships to the 39th UP National Writers Workshop to be held in UP Mindanao, Davao City in October. Ten fellowships will be granted to writers in English, Filipino, Sugbuanon, Hiligaynon and Waray. Only writers based in the Visayas and Mindanao are eligible. The grants will cover board and lodging, along with a modest stipend. Applicants are enjoined to submit their manuscripts, consisting of either six poems or two short stories or two one-act plays. Fellowships are awarded by genre and language, hence an entry consisting of four poems and one short story in English, or one story in English and one story in Sugbuanon, will not be considered. Experimental literary forms are also accepted. All applications must be sent to: Cristina Pantoja Hidalgo, UP CWC director, 39th UP National Writers Workshop, Likhaan: UP Creative Writing Center, 2/F Bulwagang Rizal, UP Diliman, QC. Deadline for submission of entries is on July 31. Call 922-1830 or 920-5301 local 7974.

ARTS AND CRAFTS FOR KIDS. Escuela sa Museo of Ayala Museum holds an open studio workshop every Wednesday. It will also offer basic arts and crafts workshops this July for kids. Marc Cosico and Widmarth Lodriga, both Fine Arts graduates of UP Diliman, will facilitate the Basic Arts and Crafts Workshops. Call 812-1191 to 97 local 130.

ARTS AND WRITING COURSES. Visual Communications Group is now accepting students for its continuing workshop on visual arts and creative writing. "Art Strokes" features basic and advanced painting lessons on charcoal, watercolor, pastel, oil and mixed media. "WWW" or "Wonderful World of Words" offers lessons on children's story writing, short story writing, essay writing, script writing. Courses are open to children and adults. Morning, afternoon and weekend classes are available on a first come-first served basis. Call 740-7221.

Pop Quiz

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☐ 6 apples
☒ 14 apples
☐ none of the above

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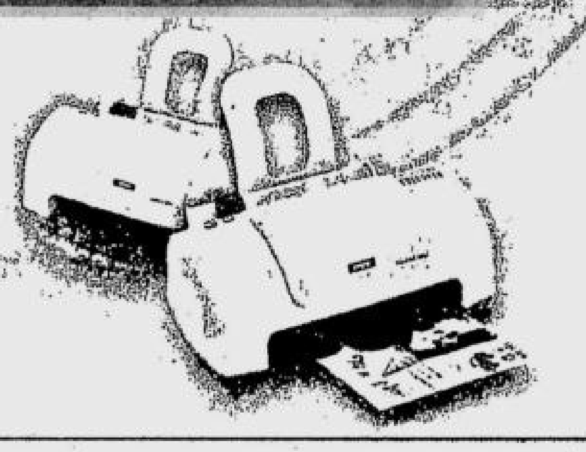

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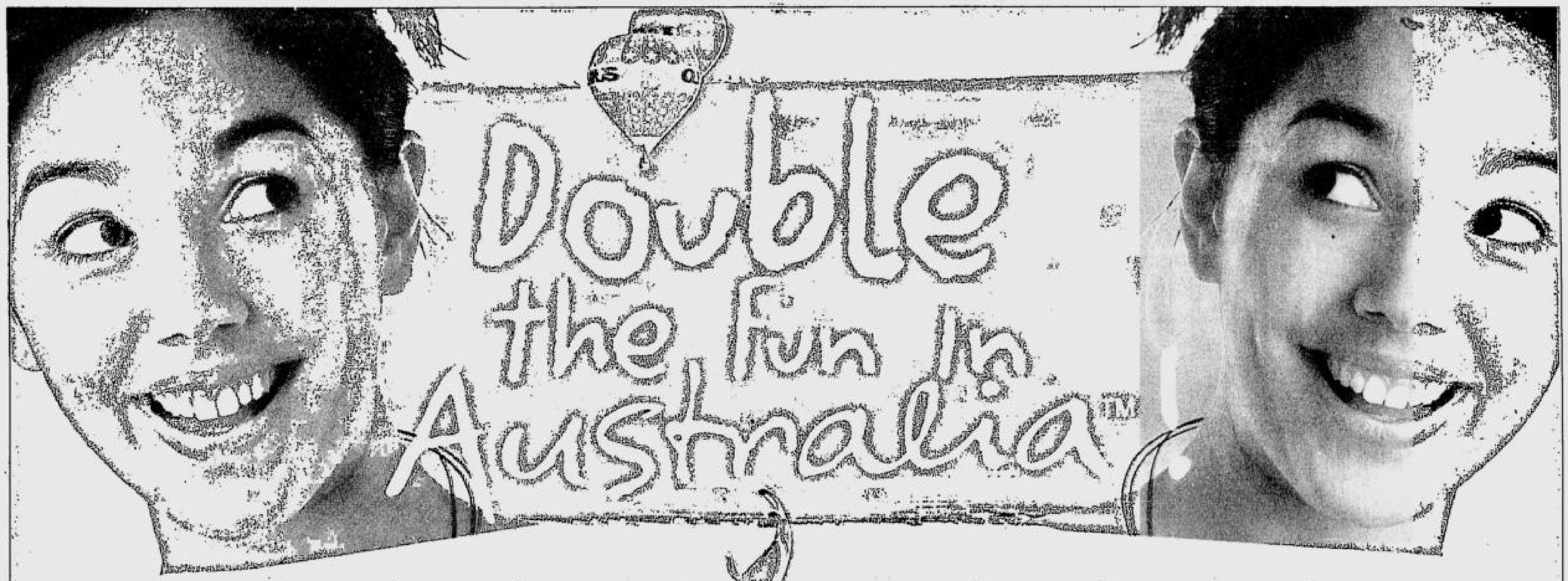
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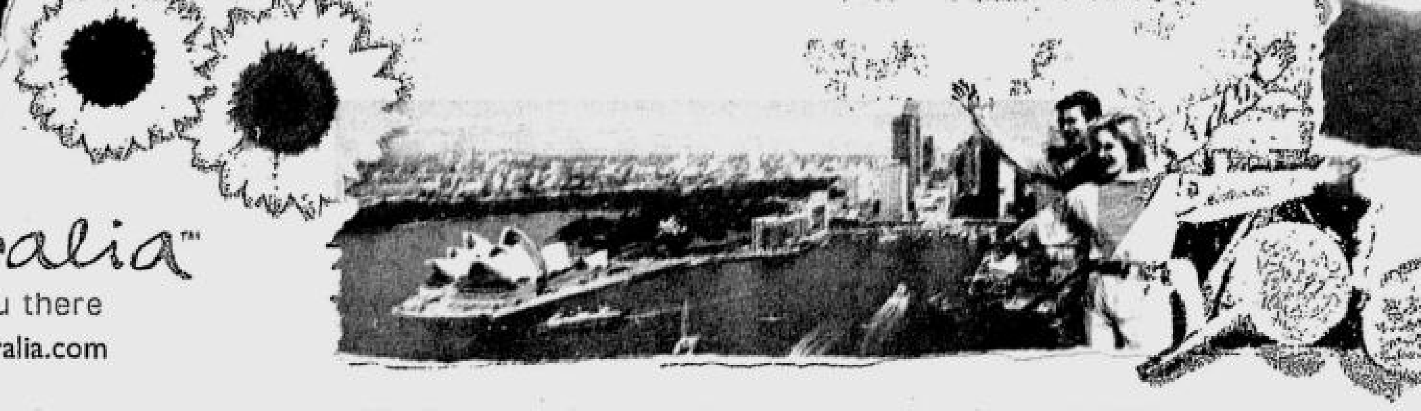

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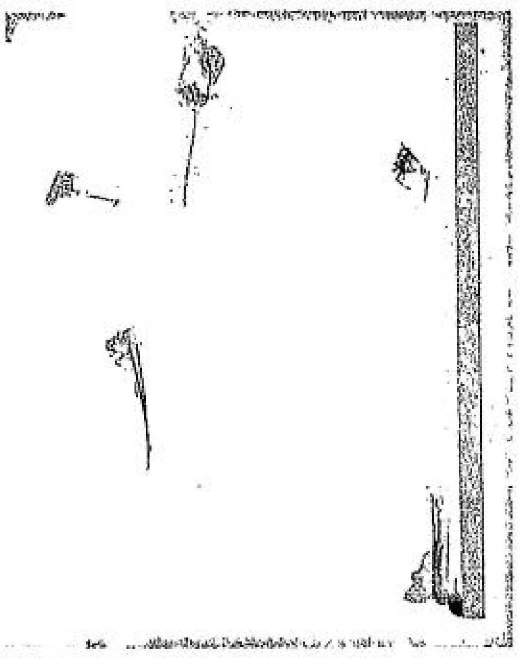
A sense of floating, falling and flight


NO. 2

By Constantino C. Tejero

A FIRST glance at Bob Bernardo Nuestro's exhibit "Floating" and one thinks of Calder's mobiles. A second glance reminds one of the floating objects and flying figures of Miró and Chagall.

A third and penetrating look recalls the abstraction of El Lissitzky, its overall flatness, with no depth of perspective whatsoever. Instead of architectonic lines, however, we have here amebic forms.

The show features 15 abstract pieces in watercolor, acrylic and pencil on paper, in uniform size of 74 cm x 54 cm. On display until July 18 at The Drawing Room, Metrostar Building, 1007 Metropolitan Ave., Makati City, the works are not totally abstract. We seem to make out figures sketchily outlined by pencil then washed with watercolor.

Are these flying flowers we see, falling leaves, kites and tattered buntings or just floating blobs of color (often thin watercolor blurs of blue, green and brown) against a background of exposed paper, punctuated or partially bordered with acrylic strips, rectangles, squares and triangles (usually in pairs)?

Petal and dewdrop

No. 1, with blue and ochre rectangles at lower left and upper right corners, respectively, has flowers on stems, one brown flower flying upward, a brown petal falling to the ground.

No. 3, with a green strip forming what looks like a tree stump overgrown with weeds, has a yellow triangle forming the calyx of a flying flower with green stem and a brown leaf.

No. 5, with two orange strips, could be kites of brown and dirty green entangled in midair.

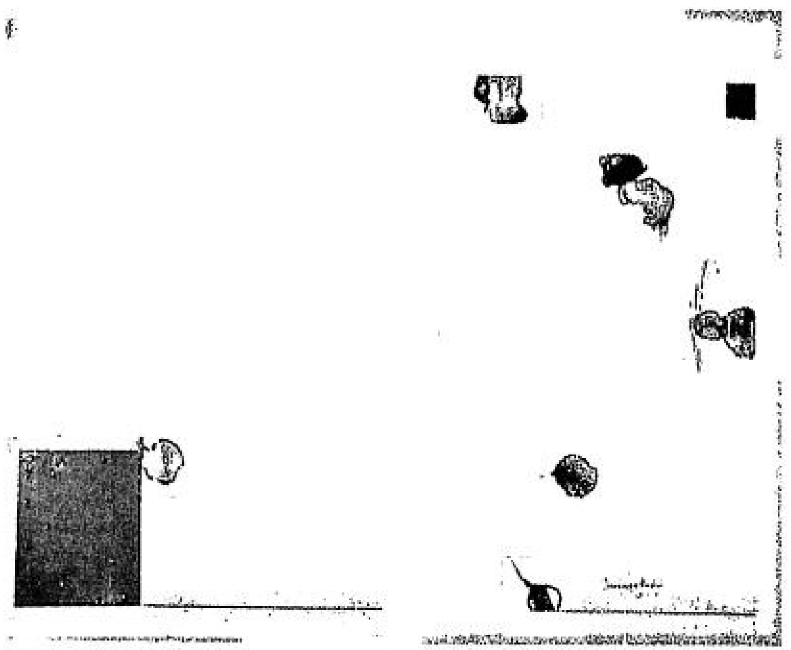
No. 8, with green strips, consists of what look like ameba and sperm cells afloat in primal fluid.

No. 9, with two blue rectangles, could be a jellyfish or a mushroom cap.

No. 10, with black rectangle and triangle, could be a slate-brown jellyfish and a doorknob.

No. 11, with a green rectangle and a triangle on a vertical line, like buntings, has a brown tamarind fruit, and on the upper edge there's a green shape with what looks like a dewdrop about to fall.

No. 12, with two ochre rectangles, has brown and olive-green balloons on strings, which look more like inflated condoms.


NO. 7

Imitation and expression

No. 15, with a green strip, consists of what looks like a branch protruding from the left on which are perching some gray, blue and dirty-green shapes, which could be rodents or birds with their long tails hanging.

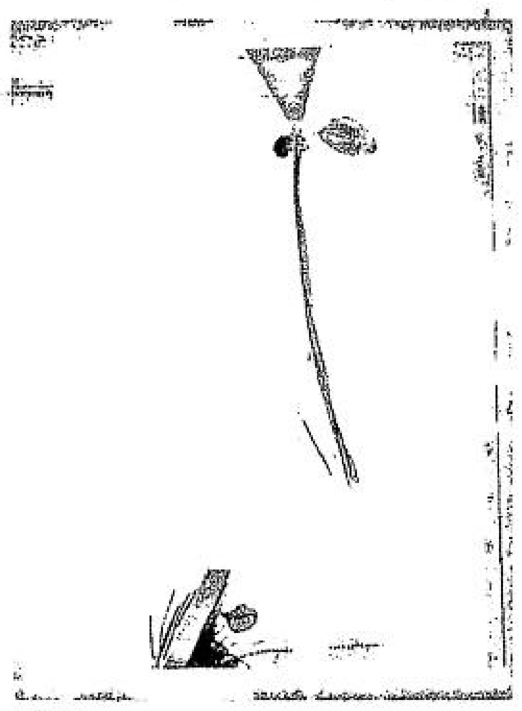
At close range, the combination of the solid geometric shapes in acrylic and the light blurs of watercolor would seem unlikely. At a certain distance, however, each piece looks transcendent.

What then does it all mean—both medium and content?

In art, the imitation of nature was once ranked highest. Today, expression has become the fundamental element in painting.

These pieces may not look like anything in nature, but the whole exhibit seems to be a celebration of the sensation of flight, the ethereality of floating, the mystic quality of light. No matter what these pieces signify, the effect on the viewer is one of an overwhelming sense of happiness.

That, to us, would seem to be the mission of the artist. As Brancusi said of his bronze sculpture "Bird in Space": "I bring you pure joy."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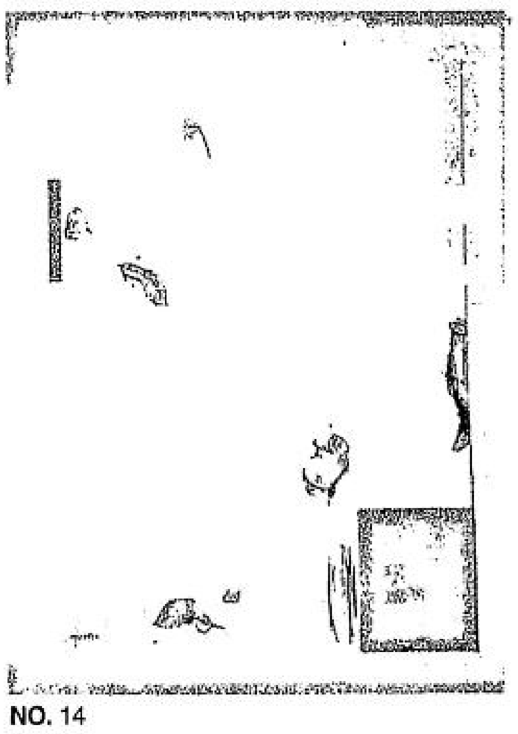
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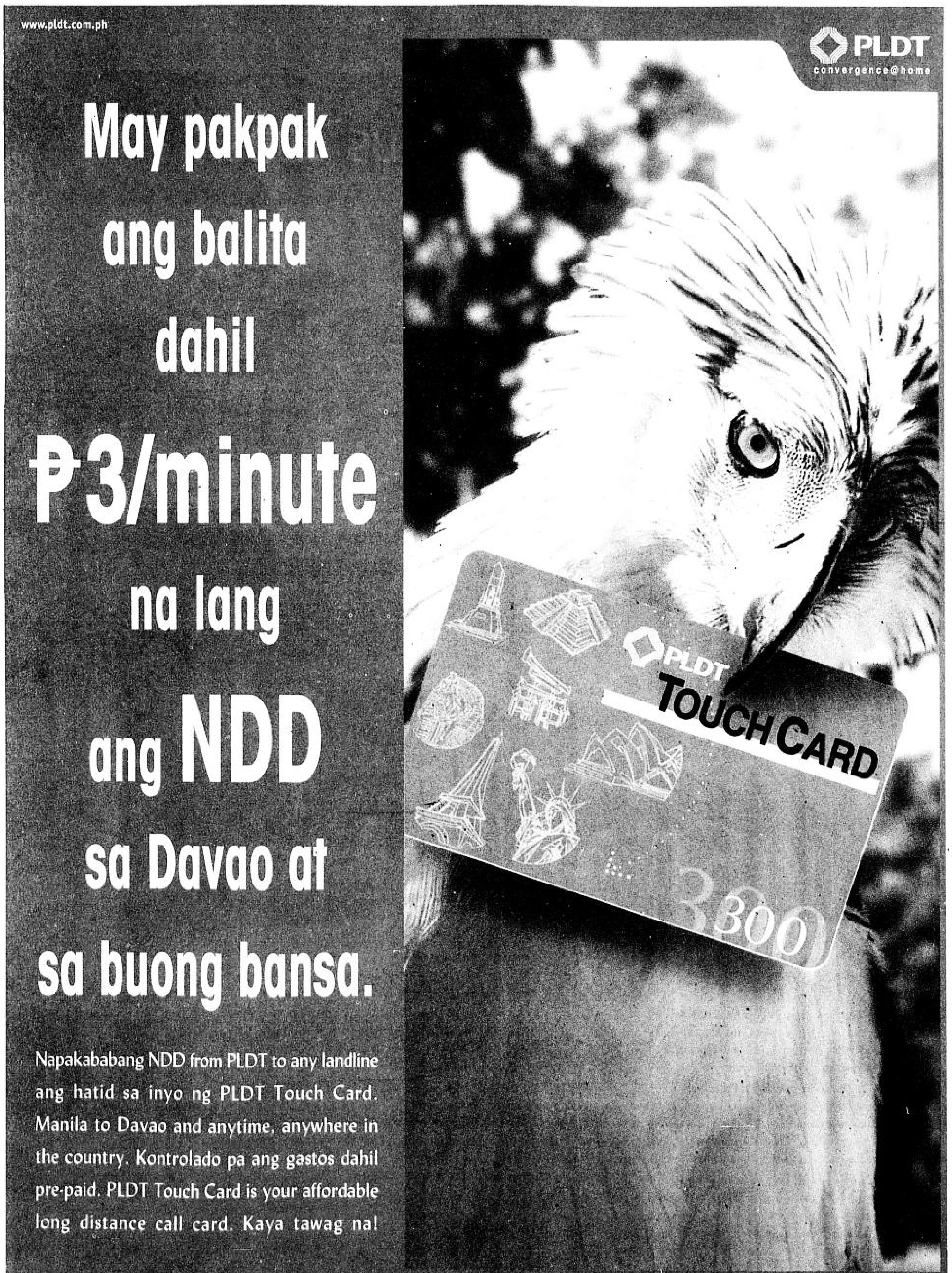
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Taal camp canceled

SNACK (Summer Nature and Arts Camp for Kids), the pioneering outdoor learning camp for children, has cancelled its outdoor camp at Taal Lake Yacht Club for kids on the European and American school calendar due to bad weather.

But a craft camp will be held July 24-28 at the Pottery Exchange, Garden Level, Bonaventure Building, Ortigas, Pasig.

Scheduled for 2-4 p.m. every day, the camp is open to boys and girls aged 7-13. It will offer cross-stitching, hand-building pottery, decoupage, polymer clay and ceramic painting.

Lanelle Abueva Fernando, Lydia Paredes, Bong Garrovillo and Ruthie Santiago will be camp facilitators. All works will be exhibited at the Pottery Exchange.

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Another Pinoy actor shines in Singapore theater

Story on page F4

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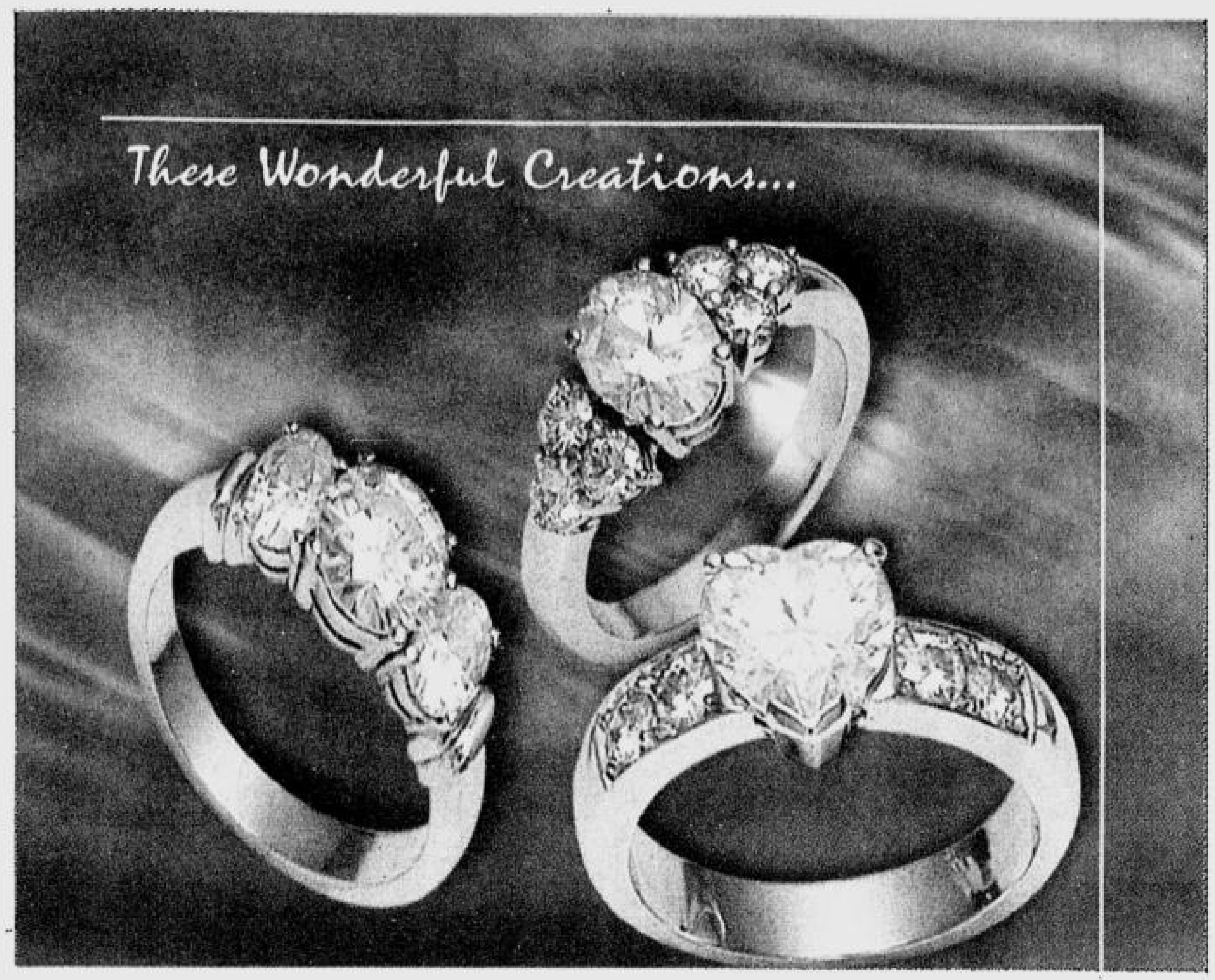

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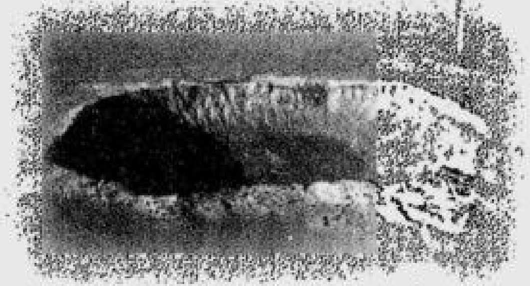

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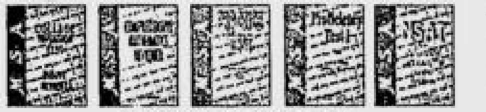

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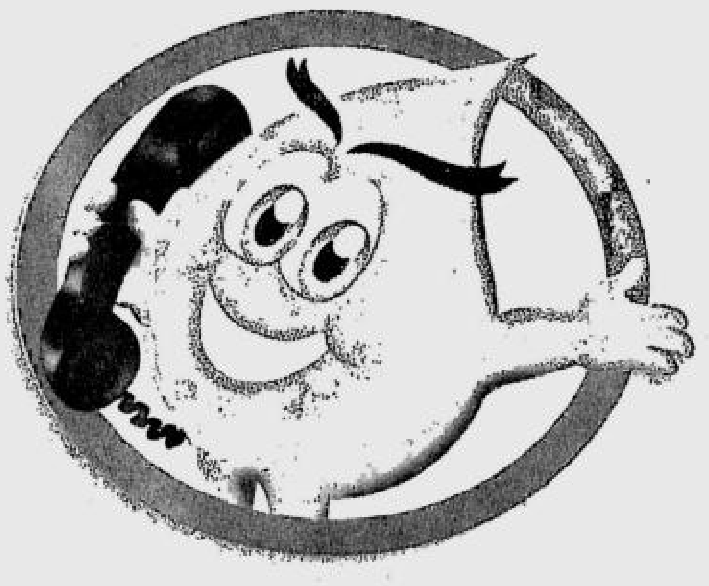

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Ballet troupe not ready to hang up dancing shoes

By Marge C. Enriquez

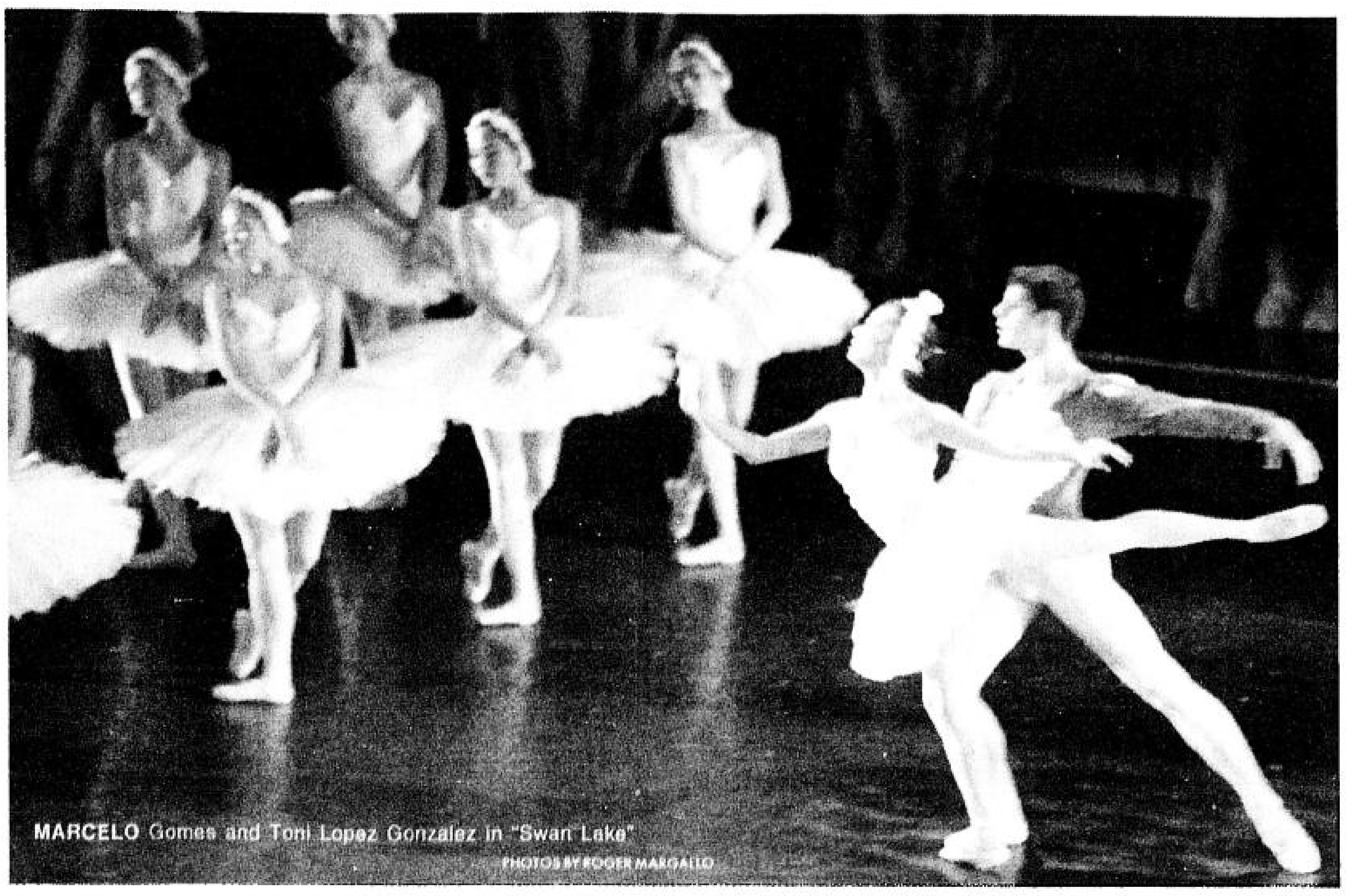
AFTER 15 seasons, the Philippine Ballet Theater faces the same predicament—inadequate corps de ballet and a lack of strong and tall male dancers, budget deficit and a dwindling audience. To a dance reviewer, the warhorse repertoire has become as tiresome as the flaccid footwork, spiky arms, crooked knees and wobbly balances of the ensemble, show after show.

REVIEW

MARCELO Gomes hams it up at the Hyatt rooftop.
PHOTO: CHITO VECINA

Yet, despite these setbacks, PBT continues to move on. It shows Filipino resiliency and determination at their best. With such dance pioneers as Inday Manosa as executive director, Julie Borromeo as artistic director and Tita Radaic (who suffered a mild stroke while doing the press rounds for the company), PBT is keeping its spirits up by continuing its season and inviting foreign guest artists—a luxury in these times. Even if the corps, an assemblage of students from other dance schools, lacked style, at least they were synchronized.

During the gala night, PBT showed some marketing savvy by getting VIPs and big-time sponsors, one of which was a high-end European furniture company that offered big discounts to the audience and raffled off three paintings worth P100,000 each.



MARCELO Gomes and Toni Lopez Gonzalez in "Swan Lake"
PHOTOS BY ROGER MARGALLO

Bravura

Guest artist Marcelo Gomes, who showed the standards of male dancing in the millennium, brightened up the gala show. While his predecessors did an average of seven pirouettes in one go, he easily whipped up nine. His kicks were as sharp as Swiss knives and the leg extensions in the turning jumps reached for the ceiling. While doing a series of open-leg turns, he would do three while other danseurs would do two.

But great dancing isn't a numbers game. It was the little details in classical technique such as the fully stretched and articulated footwork, the beautiful arm line, and molten movement quality that impressed this writer more than his bravura. His abandoned turns and unrestrained movements reflected his joie de vivre.

Partnering can be compared to precious jewelry. The ballerina is the jewel while the partner is the setting. The setting can make or break the gem. It is the same with the pas de deux. Even if the partner simply assists or shows off the ballerina, he has to look just as elegant.

In "Swan Lake," Gomes was noble and tender as Prince Siegfried, and he magnified the expertise of his partner. In "Paquita," he exuded a haughty air yet he carried his partner with ease despite her tutu's dangerously covering his face.

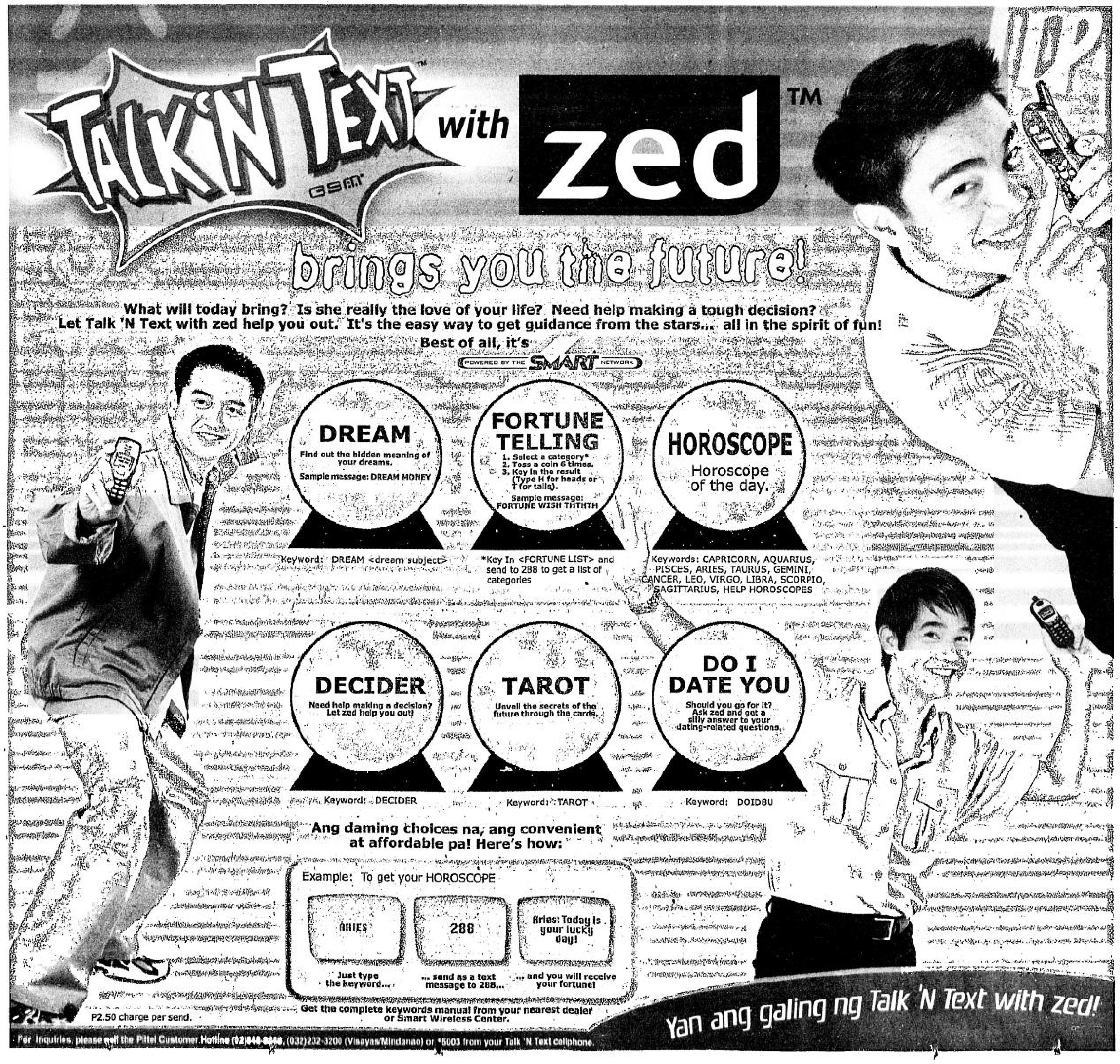
Fine moments

Guest artist Toni Lopez Gonzalez was in her element as Odette in "Swan Lake" Act 2. As the Swan Princess, she was very focused in developing her character and the storyline in this act. In her mimetic colloquy with Prince Siegfried, she magnified emotions of awe of the Prince and the fear of being under the spell of the wicked Rothbart. Her leg extensions were resplendent and fluid, every lift, arabesque and supported pirouette done with emotion and physical control. This ballet was one of her finest moments in her career.

The balcony scene from "Romeo and Juliet" was a showcase for the lyricism of Cathee Lee-Roslostev and the long, fluid lines of guest artist Sonny Locsin. Tom Pazik's choreography was predictable, with overhead lifts, with Juliet perched on Romeo's shoulders and swooning arabesques, lifts and dips. Cathee played up the excitement and rapture of a child-woman to the hilt. Although Locsin is one of the finest Filipino danseurs in this generation, he still needs to mature into the role of Romeo. Juliet's surging hormones eclipsed Romeo's testosterone level.

We would have enjoyed the "Le Corsaire"

BALLET/p.F3



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Ballet troupe not ready to hang up dancing shoes

The pas de deux is like precious jewelry—the ballerina is the jewel while the partner is the setting

GOMES and Gonzalez take a bow after "Swan Lake."

(From page F2)

pas de deux, with Gomes and Guada de Leon, had the ballerina been less nervous. We noticed that the ballerinas weren't used to being handled by strong hands like Gomes'.

It was the first time the public saw an excerpt from "La Esmeralda," which is about a street-dancer and gypsy. Except for Maricar Medina's dramatic performance, the energy level was feeble. The dance showed that PBT lacked reliable danseurs to partner the seasoned ballerinas.

Medina was paired with newcomer Nino Guevarra who, despite gifts of natural elevation and quick turns, was too raw beside her. He looked more like Esmeralda's bouncer rather than her consort.

The finale, "Paquita," was not up to par. The company lacked the sharpness, spice and the intensity required by the mood of the piece. The piece started to drag from the pas de trois and onward. It only became interesting because of Gomes' majestic entrance and spirited performance.

But, in spite of PBT's chronic challenges and the uncertain times, the company maintains that the show must go on. Now that's positive thinking, something we all need today.

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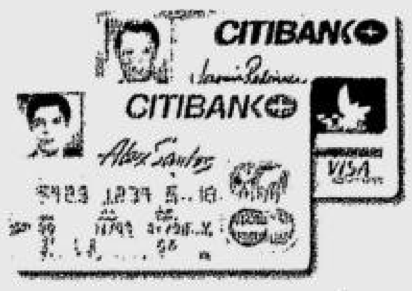

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Another Pinoy actor shines in Singapore theater

By Cora Llamas

SOMETIMES, some of the good actors nourished by the Philippine theater remain well-hidden until they start to make waves abroad.

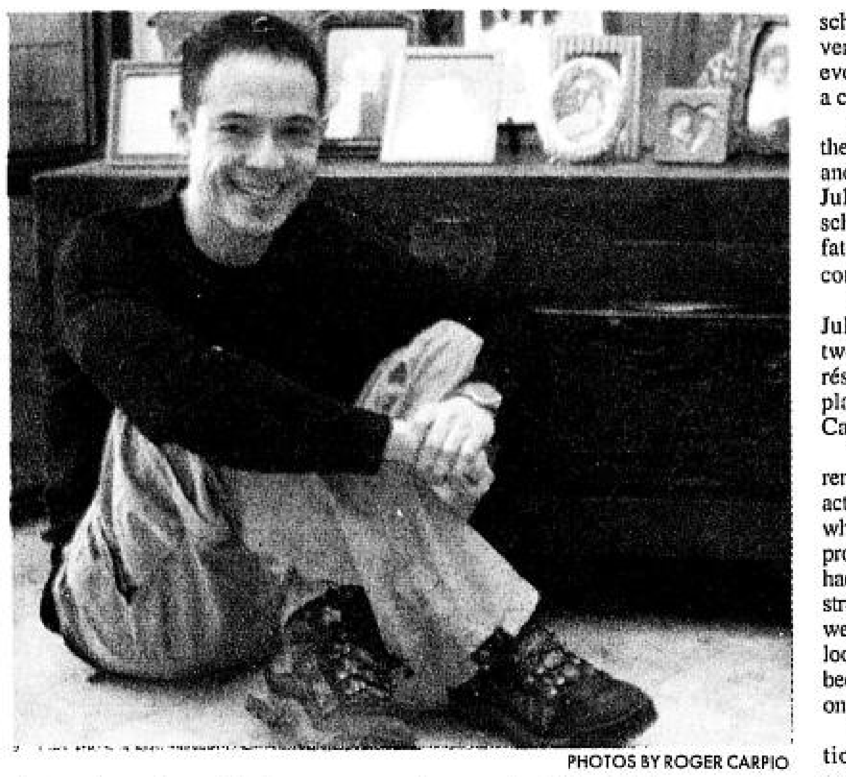
"Miss Saigon," in its various incarnations, has fielded Filipino performers, the known and the just-starting, to various mega musicals in Europe and the United States. Several little known Pinoy performers have made the grade by other routes.

Roy Rolloda is one Filipino star who is beginning to rise abroad. He is the timid half of the famous Siamese twins in the Singapore-based Action Theater's "Chang and Eng: The Musical." The ex-financial analyst had only a smattering of minor roles, most of them ensemble, in Repertory Philippines productions. But he beat 70 more experienced aspirants for the role in the Singapore production. In an interview early this year, the low-key soft-spoken actor said he still couldn't get over the surprise.

A couple of months ago, another Pinoy actor, Joel Trinidad, landed one of the four roles in Singapore Repertory Theater's (SRT) production of "Shakespeare's R and J."

Not that the thirtysomething Trinidad is a complete unknown. He is recognized in the industry as a hardworking, reliable performer who has had more than his fair share of critical acclaim. It's just that Trinidad doesn't act that often. While many actors shuttle in and out of plays, rehearsing in one production during the day while playing in another in the evening, Trinidad does on average three plays a year. And it's by choice.

"I am picky," he admits. "I love acting, that's why I'm doing less productions. All the shows that are in my résumé I've wanted to do, every single one. I don't want to play a part just for the sake of doing it, or because of the money. I can't speak for everybody. But everybody knows that the payment in theater is really pathetic; so some actors do *lagare* just to survive."



PHOTOS BY ROGER CARPIO

Knack

Trinidad has a lot of businesses on the side as his bread and butter, at least for now. This knack for combining passion with practicality was honed during his nine years in advertising. Two months after graduation from the Ateneo, Trinidad started work in the ad agency Lintas; nearly a decade later, he was promoted to creative director.

It was also during those years that he discovered his love for acting—and realized that he had to be selective. "I could only do two plays a year. I had to choose what part or play would be worth all the sacrifices, the *puyat*, the late-night rehearsals after a hard day's work."

Trinidad has no regrets about his relative lack of visibility. The parts he has played made up for it, like Albert Camus' insane, murderous Caligula, and the frivolous but brilliant Mozart in Peter Schaeffer's "Amadeus."

"I've played women, a closet-gay psycho killer, and really evil characters. 'Caligula' was cathartic because I diffused all my negative energies on stage. The show ends with me drenched in blood. I pull out my own heart and I say, 'I'm still alive.' "

He's also done the lighter stuff. In last year's "Over the River and through the Woods," Trinidad played a "Neil Simon-type narrator" who was also a happy, intelligent yuppie trying to be on his own, gently loosening himself from the suffocating ties of family. The Repertory production was personally memorable because, for the first time, he acted opposite real-life dad, actor Noel Trinidad (who also played his character's father).

"It was fun to do, but I don't want to do two of that in a row," Joel says. "People can easily picture me in that role, but I do want to be known for my versatility."

Passion

"Shakespeare's R and J" certainly gave him that chance. The off-Broadway short play, written by Joe Calarco, was about rekindling passion amid the confines of artistic sterility and emotional repression. Four unnamed 16-year-old schoolboys, studying in a very stiff, very cold academic environment where even literature is banned, stumble onto a collection of Shakespeare's works.

Excited and stirred by the poetry in the language, they take turns reading and acting out the roles in "Romeo and Juliet." The gay inclinations of two schoolboys, who are playing the ill-fated lovers, are awakened, to the discomfort of the other two.

Trinidad would have wanted to play Juliet ("I've already done Romeo, the two of them would look good in my résumé"), but the director cast him to play Mercutio, Friar Laurence, Lady Capulet and Lord Montague.

"It was like an acting workshop," he remembers. "We were four different characters dressed in short-sleeved polo and white pants. We had nothing—no stage prop or costume—to work on, but we had to be the characters. We were instructed not to change our voices if we were to play a woman, because it would look campy. One day, it just clicks; you become the character, and you don't dwell on your gestures, your mannerisms."

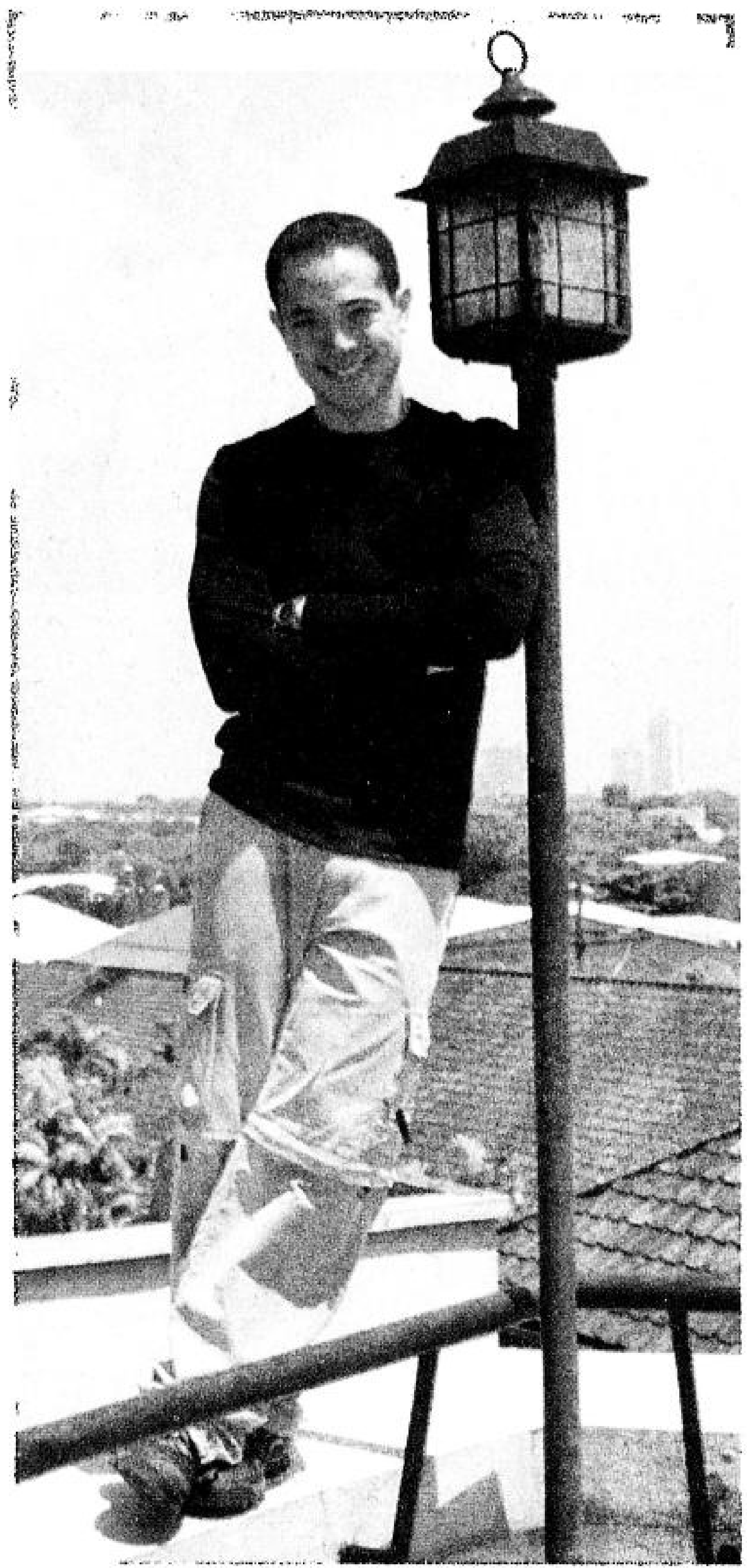
The SRT people asked him to audition for the play when "Rent," a coproduction with Manila's Atlantis Theater, was winding down. Trinidad was part of the "Rent" ensemble and understudied for Mark, the film director. He readily agreed because it would mean staying longer in Singapore.

"I had fallen in love with the place. We have a lot of similarities with Singapore. It's what the Philippines could be if we get our act together. The streets are safe. There are no poor people. The system just works there."

The artistic boom in Lee Kuan Yew's model state is also attracting more Asian performers, including Filipinos. According to Trinidad, who dreams of becoming an internationally known thespian, performing in Singapore theater gives an actor exposure to producers from places like Hong Kong and Australia.

"One festival had 30 plays in 30 days, a different play each day, and the audiences just kept coming. There's a lot of interest in the arts, and the supply of artists can't meet the demand. 'R and J' only had four roles, and two of us—me and a Hindu national—came from other countries."

Trinidad has high hopes that Filipino actors would do well in Singapore theater. A Singapore talent agency had expressed interest in representing him. "I know the people here. We have a greater number of talented people in this country. Actor for actor, it wouldn't be a problem."



12-year-old has the dedication of a prima ballerina

TWELVE-YEAR-OLD Tracey Castillo would rather miss school than her class.

"That should tell you how hooked she is on ballet," says her dad, Bacoor Mayor-elect Jessie B. Castillo, who defeated Lani Mercado in the May 14 polls.

Although she remains conscientious about her academic studies, Tracey much prefers to accomplish more in ballet, which she started to study when she was just 4 years old. One day, she simply asked her parents to enrol her in Ecolle de Ballet in Barangay BF, Parañaque City.

The second among the Castillos children, Tracey's figure seems sculpted for ballet. She's endowed with long limbs and the neck of a swan, so to speak. More importantly, she has the dedication of a prima ballerina to her craft but mercifully without the mercurial temper. The biggest factor that is helping her in her resolve to become a great ballerina is her family's total backing.

WITH HER ballet schoolmates

WARMING up with assistance from Ecolle de Ballet's Nina Anonas de Santos.

"We give her all she needs in her dancing," says Mayor Castillo. "Her mom even accompanied her for moral support when she competed in an international ballet contest in 1999."

Tracey's eight years of continuing ballet lessons has earned her two championship trophies (solo and duet) and a third-place medal (group) in the Singapore Dancefest in July 2000.

"I felt exceptionally good when I won in Singapore," she recalls. "But even if I had not won, I would have felt good just the same. I really, really love ballet."

Tracey also treasures the experience of traveling at a young age with a large group. Nineteen of her ballet classmates also competed in Singapore.

Although she feels nervous before the start of the competition, the feeling instantly dissolves when she hears her dance piece. "I tend to forget everything when I dance. With a group, I feel I'm dancing solo."

She was among the performers at the recent presentation of the Association of Ballet Academies Philippines called Abap Caravan # 1 at the People' s Park (as the Quezon City Memorial Circle is now popularly known).

Other participating schools in the Abap Caravan, which began the revival of the weekly cultural program at the People's Park, included The Ballet Center, Ballet Etude, Ballet Repertory Junior Schools CAP Ballet Theater, Center for Movement & Music Performing Arts Studio, Manille, More Than Ballet School, Reneegrace Rose Villa School of Ballet & Performing Arts I and Satin Slippers School of Arts.

Young students from 11 ballet schools performed in the open air for free. Tracey's group presented the catchy "Antonio's Waltz" by Glazounov, with choreography by Tony Fabella.

When she's not at school or dancing, Tracey is likely to be home reading a Harry Potter or an inspirational book.

For having a very supportive family, Tracey says she can't ask for more. The budding prima ballerina in the Castillo household in Ayala, Alabang will surely get there.

Orosa takes a second turn as tutor in 'Little Mermaid'

SINGER and recording artist Carlo Orosa will be both heard and seen again as Nicodemus in "Little Mermaid," the musical production described by Ryan Cayabyab as "an outstanding visual and musical feast with universal appeal that Filipinos can be truly proud of."

Carlo shares the stage with such exciting young luminaries as Carol Banawa and Dianne de la Fuente in the title role. Kaycee Concepcion, the Megastar's daughter, is Princess Sapphire.

They are supported by a cast of 30 dancers-singers.

Orosa, a former Kundirana member, made his stage debut in the Metropolitan Theater's "The Great White Way" musical in 1986. Today, he is one of the most sought-after solo acts and theater artists in the country.

Cayabyab himself has described him as "an excellent performer with clear, powerful tones coupled with a warm personality—onstage and off."

Orosa first appeared as Nicodemus in last year's production of the "Little Mermaid." He said he took on the role of the young mermaid's kindly tutor because the character was unlike anything he has done before. He also related to Nicodemus as a teacher as well as best friend and confidant to the Little Mermaid.

Catch Orosa and the cast of the "Little Mermaid" at the Meralco Theater from Aug. 3 to Sept. 9. Call Trumpets at 633-5010 or NBS Ticketworld 891-5610/5843/5539/5944/5527/5974.

THE PRINCESS Jewel (Carol Banawa) thanks her tutor Nicodemus (Carlo Orosa) for her birthday gift in Trumpets' "Little Mermaid"

Shakespeare play opens theater group's new season

DULAANG Unibersidad ng Pilipinas (DUP) will hold the Philippine premiere of William Shakespeare's "The Winter's Tale" and its Filipino translation, "Kuwento ng Pag-ibig at Pagtataksil," by award-winning Filipino playwright-novelist Joi Barrios.

This will be the company's initial offering for its 26th University Theater Season 2001-2002.

"The Winter's Tale," one of Shakespeare's later tragi-comedies, deals with the catastrophic consequences of a moment of jealous rage: Unnecessary deaths, false accusations of deceit and treachery, and a whole kingdom turned upside down. Yet through all the excruciating sorrow, the play ends in reconciliation and redemption.

The production features outstanding stage, television and film thespians such as Ebong Joson, Raye Baquirin, Frances Makil-Igriacio, Mailes Kanapi, Mary Grace Cornel, Mario Magallona, Gilleth Sandico and the Dulaang UP Ensemble.

Directing "The Winter's Tale" is Jose Estrella, the newly appointed artistic director of Dulaang UP. He directed the critically acclaimed "Divinas Palabras" early this year.

"The Winter's Tale" will run from July 18 to Aug. 5 with 10 a.m., 3 and 7 p.m. shows at the Wilfrido Ma. Guerrero Theater, 2/F of Palma Hall Building in UP Diliman.

KWF opens 2 essay competitions

KOMISYON sa Wikang Filipino is now accepting entries for its two essay contests this year in connection with the annual celebration of Buwan ng Wikang Pambansa (Aug. 1-31).

First is the Gawad Surian sa Sanaysay-Gantimpalang Collantes, open to all budding writers. Second is the Gawad Komisyon sa Sanaysay, a newly launched essay tilt for professional and award-winning writers.

This year's contest theme is "Paggamit ng Filipino sa sumusunod na disiplinang akademiko sa agham pangkalikasan at ibang mga agham: biolohiya, kemistri, agham pangmundo, pisika, medisina, matematika at estadistika, teknolohiya, negosyo at pamamahala, batas, relihiyon at moralidad, at estetika." Contest theme for professionals is "Panunuring Pampanitikan sa Buhay at Akda ni Rolando S. Tinio."

Deadlines for the submission of entries: July 23 for amateurs, and July 30 for professionals.

Entries may be submitted personally or by mail to: Lupon sa Sanaysay 2001 c/o Jess E. Ferrer, Komisyon sa Wikang Filipino, G/F Watson Building, 1610 J.P Laurel St., San Miguel, Manila.

‘Cinderella,’ the musical, opens July 21

WITNESS one of the most loved fairy tales come to life in a spellbinding musical for people of all ages.

Jim Eiler and Jeanne Bargy’s children’s musical hit “Cinderella” goes onstage at the William J. Shaw Theater, Shangri-La Plaza, July 21 to Dec. 16. Directed by theater veteran Michael Williams, the Repertory Philippines Children’s Theater production features Crisel Consunji and Maritoni Tordesillas in the role of Cinderella; Roy Rolloda and Jeremy Aguado as Prince Charming; Meynard Penalosa and Arnel Carrion as the stepsisters Henrietta and Gertrude; Lou Maningas and Yael Pidoda as the wicked stepmother; Marian Cabahug and Pheona Paras as the Fairy Godmother; and Oliver Usison and Don Rivera as King Darling III. Edwin Cruz and Enrique Canoy are the alternate Henrietta and Gertrude.

Rep regulars Sisa Esteva, Jejie Esguerra, Allan Alojipan, Ayam Barredo, Mazie Cajocom will also join actors Andre Torres, Mackee Serra, Dan Cabrera, Alvin Santos, Elea Floresca, Stephanie Agcambert, Tracy Santuyo, Leonore Llamas, Mia Baron, Ruth Alferez, JB Tanoja, Jessica Gallegos, Shiela Lopez, Mariel Quiatchon, Cyrus Balingit, Noe Morgado, Miguel Lindo, Michael Salomon, Nap Ching, Doods Atienza, Von Romel and John Mulhall in the cast.

Stage design is by Jay Herrera while costume design is by Benny and Liz Batoctoy. Stage and movie actress Tess Michelena is assistant director. Rep’s vice president for audience development, Joy Virata, is artistic director of the Repertory Children’s Theater.

Performances are at 10:30 a.m. every Saturday and Sunday. The play is also available for fund-raising and school or social activities. Special weekday performances can be made upon prior arrangements. Call Repertory Philippines at 633-4821 to -25 or e-mail at rep@broline.com. Visit Rep’s website at www.repertoryphilippines. com.

MARITONI Rufino Tordesillas

JEREMY Aguado

ROY Rolloda

CRISEL Consunji

For ALL your "i needs" there's i-mart...

Oranbo
Ultra
Kapitolyo
Onyx
Pureza
Tayuman
Sucat
Quinta
Hidalgo
Meycauayan
P. Campa
V. G. Cruz
Mayon
Laong-Laan
Shorthorn
Dahlia
Vicas
Cubao
Katipunan
San Mateo
Kamuning
Lagro
Manggahan
Cainta
Sixto Antonio
Javier

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2. Every customer purchase from I-Mart Drug & Convenience store worth three hundred pesos (P300.00) including any product of the sponsoring suppliers indicated, entitles you to one (1) poster entry form.
3. This promo will run from July 2, until August 2, 2001. Deadline for submission of entries is on August 2, 2001, Thursday, 5:30pm at any I-Mart branch.
4. Attach a piece of paper with your complete name, address, age, telephone number and signature with your completed colored poster. Drop your entries at any I-Mart branch or mail to "Color for Cash" Coloring Contest I-Mart International Corporation c/o Marketing Dept. Room 310-312, Solmac Bldg., #84 Dapitan cor. Banawe Street, Quezon City.
5. All qualified entries shall be judged based on these criteria:
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   - Color combination 30%
6. First Prize: P10,000
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   Third Prize: P5,000
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8. Winners will be notified by registered mail and should present registered mail and any valid ID when claiming their prizes.
9. Prizes can be claimed within 60 days from notification at the I-Mart head office.

Control Measure: All entries received through mail will be dropped in a sealed drop box by Bhords Agravante. Sealed drop boxes shall be collected and brought to I-Mart head office for safe keeping.

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ZENY

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Chili dog

CYNTHIA

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Reg. Coke

MICO

5-pc fried
Chicken
Hi-C

PRINCESS

Charbroiled
Chicken
Salad
French fries

BOSS ROBERT

Charbroiled
BBQ chicken
Large fries

DANG

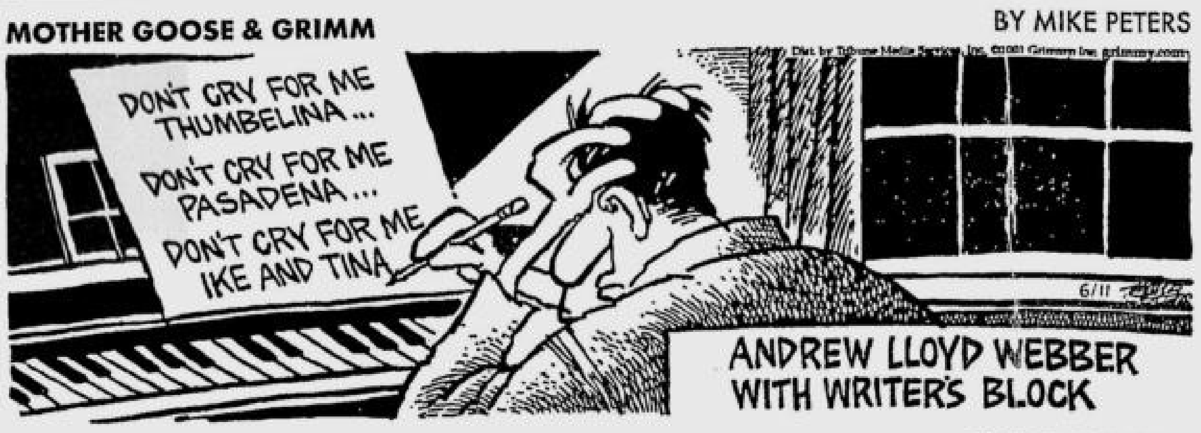
Spaghetti
Large Coke

DEL

Charbroiled
Santa Fe Chicken
Large Sprite

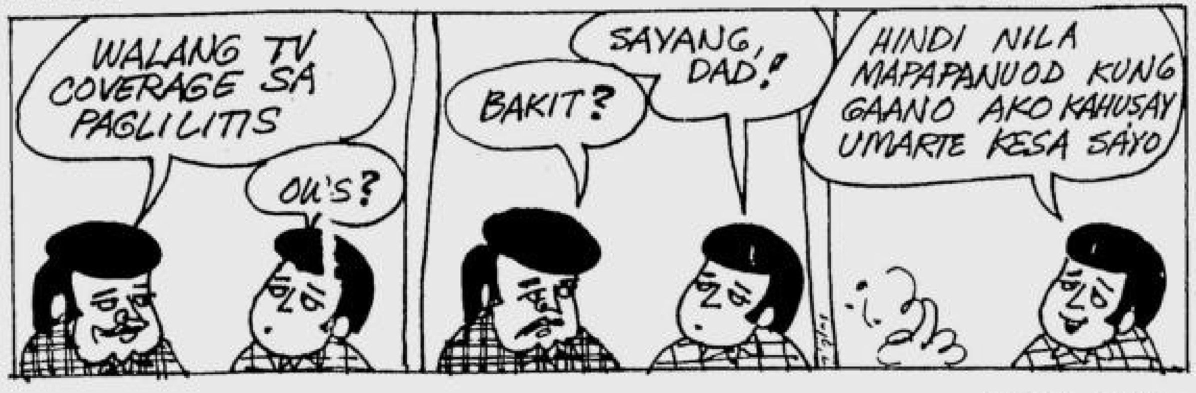
MOTHER GOOSE & GRIMM

BY MIKE PETERS


Dist. by Tribune Media Services, Inc. ©2001 Grimmy Inc. grimmy.com
DON'T CRY FOR ME THUMBELINA...
DON'T CRY FOR ME PASADENA...
DON'T CRY FOR ME IKE AND TINA
6/11
ANDREW LLOYD WEBBER WITH WRITER'S BLOCK

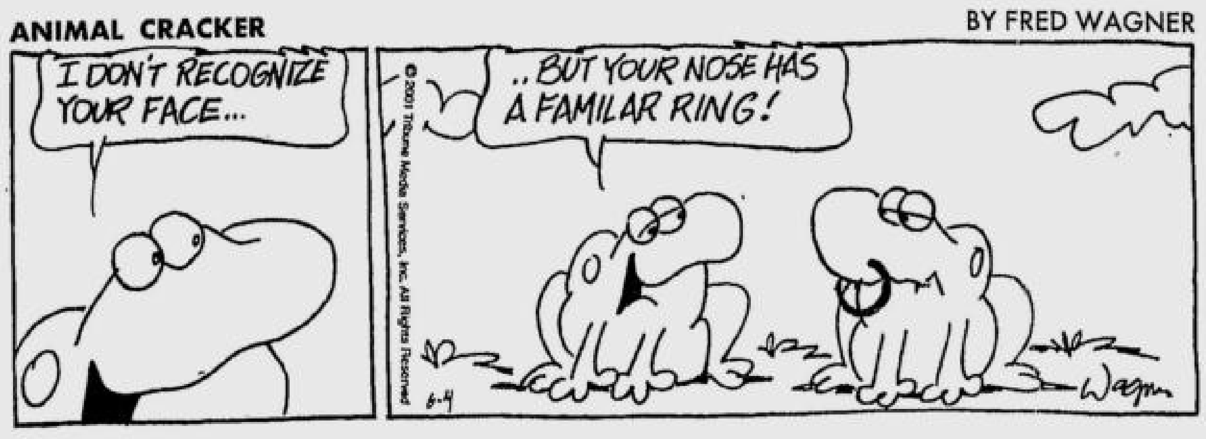
A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


WALANG TV COVERAGE SA PAGLILITIS
OU'S?
BAKIT?
SAYANG, DAD!
HINDI NILA MAPAPANUOD KUNG GAANO AKO KAHUSAY UMARTE KESA SAYO

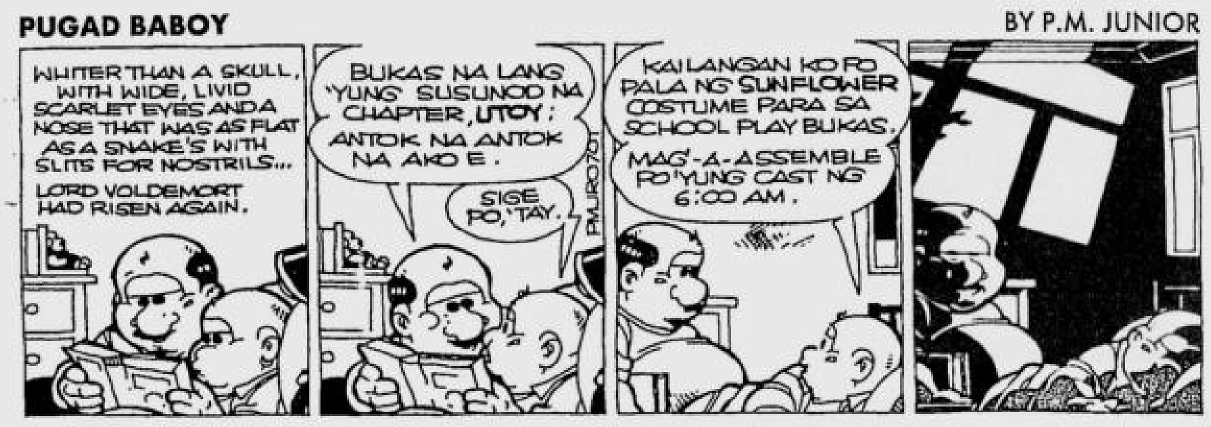
ANIMAL CRACKER

BY FRED WAGNER


I DON'T RECOGNIZE YOUR FACE...
© 2001 Tribune Media Services, Inc. All Rights Reserved
..BUT YOUR NOSE HAS A FAMILAR RING!
6-4
Wagner

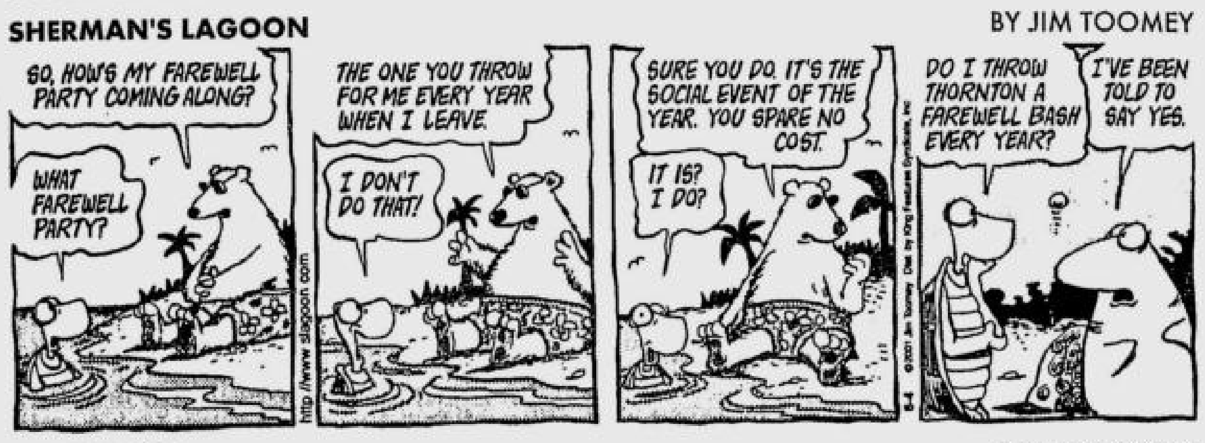
PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


WHITER THAN A SKULL, WITH WIDE, LIVID SCARLET EYES AND A NOSE THAT WAS AS FLAT AS A SNAKE'S WITH SLITS FOR NOSTRILS... LORD VOLDEMORT HAD RISEN AGAIN.
BUKAS NA LANG 'YUNG SUSUNOD NA CHAPTER, UTOY; ANTOK NA ANTOK NA AKO E.
SIGE PO, 'TAY.
PMJR0701
KAILANGAN KO PO PALA NG SUNFLOWER COSTUME PARA SA SCHOOL PLAY BUKAS.
MAG-A-ASSEMBLE PO 'YUNG CAST NG 6:00 AM.

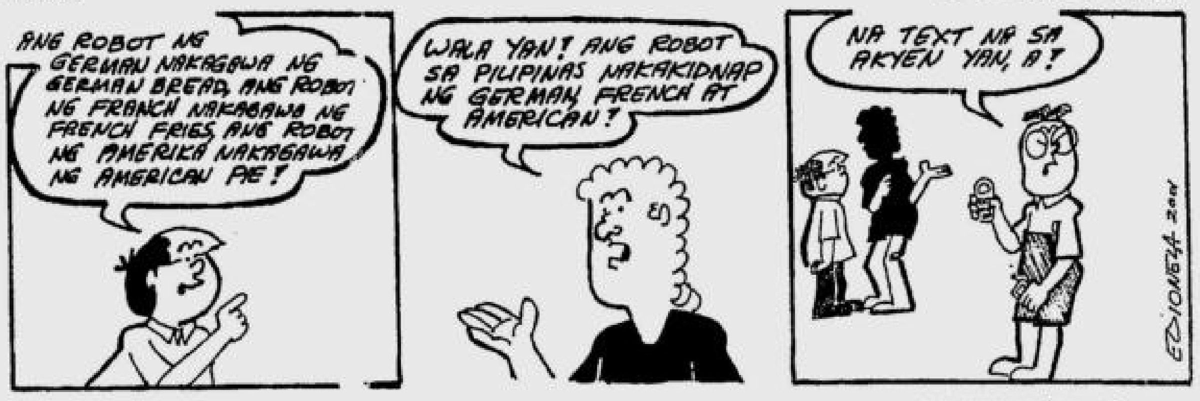
SHERMAN'S LAGOON

BY JIM TOOMEY


SO, HOW'S MY FAREWELL PARTY COMING ALONG?
WHAT FAREWELL PARTY?
http://www.slagoon.com
THE ONE YOU THROW FOR ME EVERY YEAR WHEN I LEAVE.
I DON'T DO THAT!
SURE YOU DO. IT'S THE SOCIAL EVENT OF THE YEAR. YOU SPARE NO COST.
IT IS? I DO?
©2001 Jim Toomey Dist. by King Features Syndicate, Inc
DO I THROW THORNTON A FAREWELL BASH EVERY YEAR?
I'VE BEEN TOLD TO SAY YES.

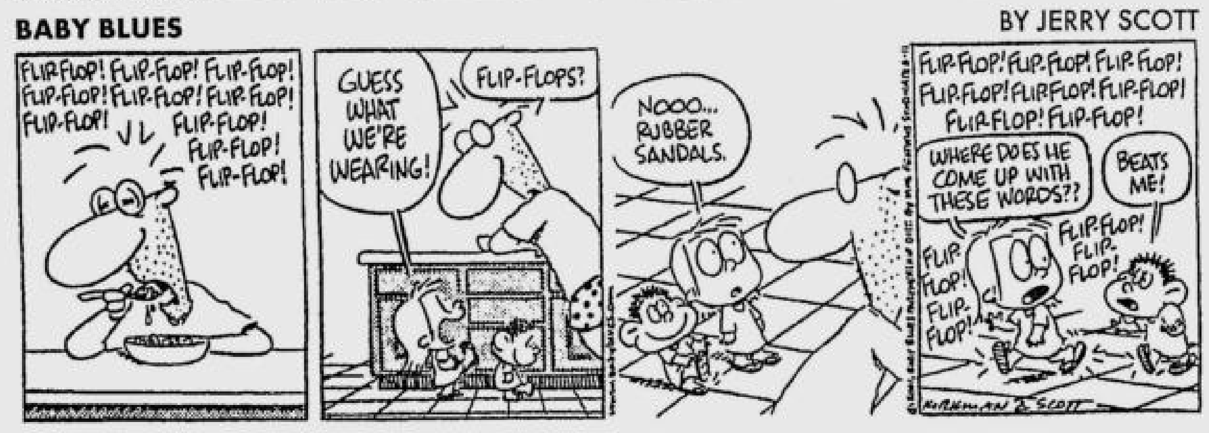
SIMO

BY EDGAR DIONELA


ANG ROBOT NG GERMAN NAKAGAWA NG GERMAN BREAD, ANG ROBOT NG FRANCH NAKAGAWA NG FRENCH FRIES, ANG ROBOT NG AMERIKA NAKAGAWA NG AMERICAN PIE!
WALA YAN! ANG ROBOT SA PILIPINAS NAKAKIDNAP NG GERMAN, FRENCH AT AMERICAN!
NA TEXT NA SA AKYEN YAN, A!
EDIONELA 2001

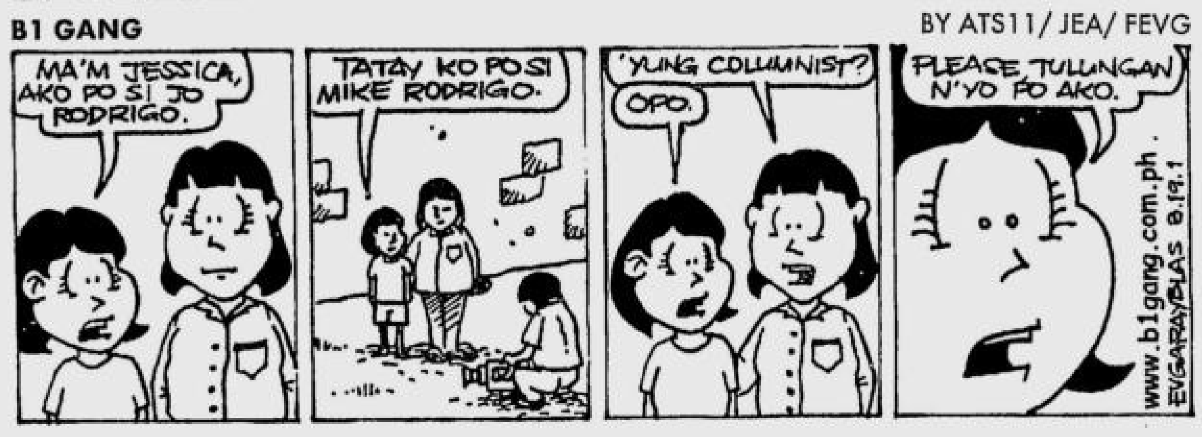
BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT


FLIP-FLOP! FLIP-FLOP! FLIP-FLOP! FLIP-FLOP! FLIP-FLOP! FLIP-FLOP! FLIP-FLOP! FLIP-FLOP! FLIP-FLOP! FLIP-FLOP!
GUESS WHAT WE'RE WEARING!
FLIP-FLOPS?
NOOO... RUBBER SANDALS.
FLIP-FLOP! FLIP-FLOP! FLIP-FLOP! FLIP-FLOP! FLIP-FLOP! FLIP-FLOP! FLIP-FLOP! FLIP-FLOP!
WHERE DOES HE COME UP WITH THESE WORDS??
BEATS ME!
FLIP-FLOP! FLIP-FLOP!
FLIP-FLOP! FLIP-FLOP!
KIRKMAN & SCOTT

B1 GANG

BY ATS11/ JEA/ FEVG


MA'M JESSICA, AKO PO SI JO RODRIGO.
TATAY KO PO SI MIKE RODRIGO.
'YUNG COLUMNIST?
OPO.
PLEASE TULUNGAN N'YO PO AKO.
www.b1gang.com.ph
EVGARAYBLAS 8.19.1

HOROSCOPE

BY EUGENIA LAST

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: John Tesh, Tom Hanks, Fred Savage, O.J. Simpson, Jimmy Smits, Barbara Cartland, Courtney Love, Suzanne Rogers

Happy Birthday: Don't be afraid to step into the limelight this year, but be sure to give praise to those who helped along the way. Being gracious will be the key to receiving acknowledgment. Your quick thinking and unique ideas will bring a position of leadership. Enjoy the popularity that comes with being successful. Your numbers: 8, 13, 27, 31, 33, 40

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Present your ideas and opinions to others, and you will receive more support than you anticipated. Talk to those with experience about turning your dreams into reality.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Don't let your anger become vengeful. You can be far more effective when it comes to getting people back, just by ignoring them and concentrating on being as successful as possible.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Your thirst for knowledge will lead you into strange topics of conversation. Don't hesitate to come right out and ask for pertinent information in order to form your opinions.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): You will be fortunate if you are willing to take a bit of a chance. Don't let anyone try to sway you about how you spend your money. Don't be taken advantage of.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Partnerships will be tense if you haven't listened carefully to each other's grievances. Property investments or residential changes should be considered.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Minor accidents will be limiting. A trip can be enlightening as long as you refrain from spending too much money. You must be precise in your statements. Relatives will cause friction.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Stable relationships can be formed at work if you are willing to communicate honestly about your goals and intentions. You may want to consider a financial contract with your lover.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Your stubborn nature may cause you plenty of grief if you refuse to see your loved one's point of view. Don't take drastic measures just to prove a point, or minor injuries will result.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Opportunities to travel and communicate with individuals who can help you achieve your goals are present. Sudden infatuations are likely through work-related events.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Older family members will need your help and could become a burden. Try not to become annoyed by their inabilities. Don't linger on past regrets. Do what's necessary and move on.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Be prepared to venture into areas you may have little knowledge about. Be yourself and don't try to pretend that you know more than you actually do.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): You'll find it difficult to handle someone's innuendo. You can accomplish great things by putting your efforts into career and not into personal vendettas.

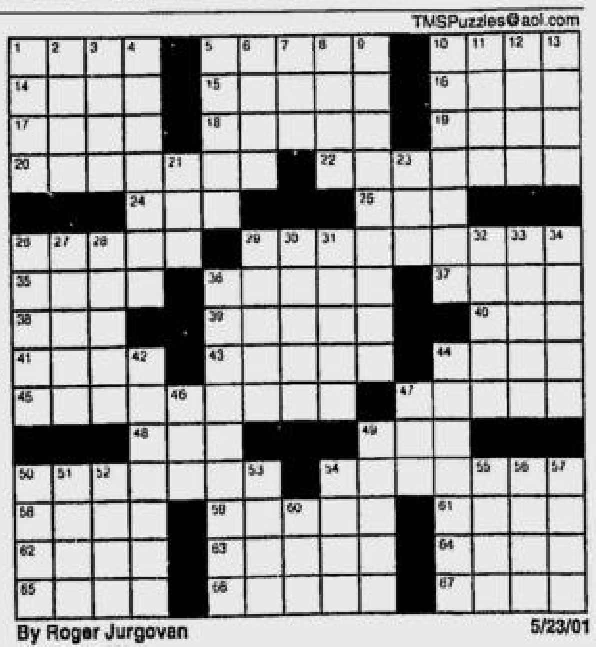
Birthday Baby: You are intelligent, talkative and charming. Your warmth, dedication and desire to achieve will help you to rise above obstacles in life. You are masterful and accommodating.

DAILY CROSSWORD

TMSPuzzles@aol.com

ACROSS
1 Grp. of oil producers
5 Provide food
10 Stable youngster
14 Dorothy's dog
15 Marry in haste
16 Hodgepodge
17 Windows image
18 Clear thinking
19 Approach
20 Instrument panel
22 Spouse of a monarch
24 Spanish gold
25 John in London
26 Strong cotton thread
29 Theme of this puzzle
35 Formerly
36 More uncommon
37 Olympian Lipinski
38 Prickly husk
39 Let up
40 Gangster's gun
41 __ the Red
43 Like showers
44 Pitcher David
45 Added to one's bank account
47 Cornmeal concoctions
48 Modern: pref.
49 Is able
50 Meaning
54 Deportment
58 Shoestring
59 In front
61 Inarticulate sounds
62 Modern Persia
63 Furlough
64 Applaud
65 H.S. junior's exam
66 Computer key
67 Gratuities

DOWN
1 Auricular
2 Somewhat, in music
3 Winchester's rival
4 Comfort
5 Instrument played sitting down
6 Cosmetics additive
7 Dress
8 Heroic tale
9 Used dye
10 Keep company (with)
11 Butter's cuz?
12 Tale inventor
13 Wrongful act
21 Mineral in the raw
23 Egg concoction
26 Lunglike
27 Harden
28 Temporary currency
29 Nun's attire
30 Pope's fanon
31 Doled (out)
32 Copland or Burr
33 Recumbent
34 Netherworld
36 Fundamental reasons
42 Satisfied
44 Direct
46 Bishopric
47 Bad review
49 Cryptographer
50 Prune
51 Paddles
52 March Madness org.
53 Next in sequence
54 Stalactite location
55 Jamaican citrus fruit
56 Guy
57 Recipe abbr.
60 Devour



By Roger Jurgoven
Potomac, MD

5/23/01

SATURDAY PUZZLE ANSWER

A	P	E	S	■	V	A	S	E	■	P	A	N	D	A
L	A	M	E	■	I	G	O	R	■	I	D	E	A	S
P	R	I	V	A	T	E	P	R	O	P	E	R	T	Y
O	R	T	E	G	A	■	S	O	B	S	■	V	E	E
■	■	■	R	O	M	P	■	R	E	Q	U	E	S	T
R	I	F	E	■	I	R	A	■	Y	U	L	■	■	■
O	S	U	■	G	N	O	M	E	■	E	A	S	Y	A
M	A	J	O	R	A	P	P	L	I	A	N	C	E	S
A	K	I	R	A	■	S	L	I	N	K	■	A	L	P
■	■	■	E	N	A	■	E	O	N	■	I	M	P	S
P	A	G	O	D	A	S	■	T	O	W	N	■	■	■
A	B	E	■	P	A	T	S	■	C	A	S	T	L	E
G	E	N	E	R	A	L	E	L	E	C	T	I	O	N
E	L	E	M	I	■	E	R	I	N	■	E	N	I	D
D	E	T	O	X	■	O	B	I	T	■	P	E	N	S

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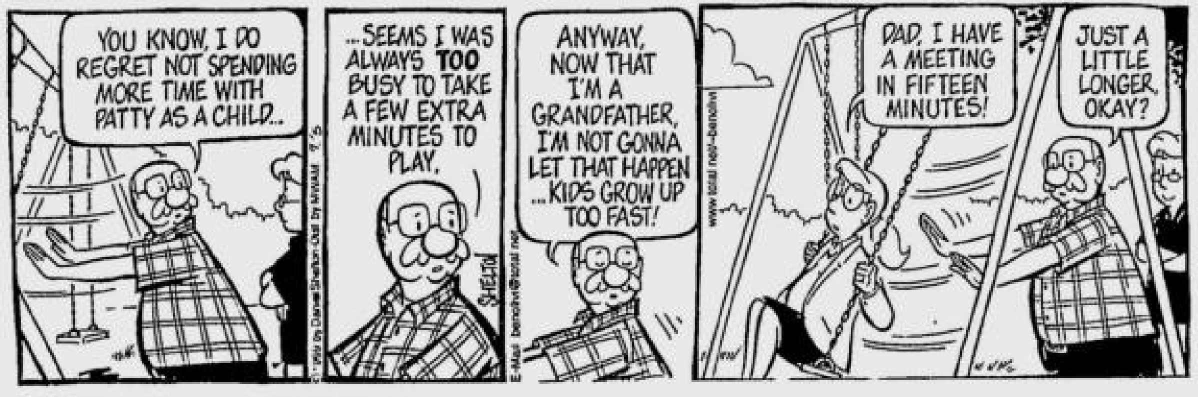
5/23/01

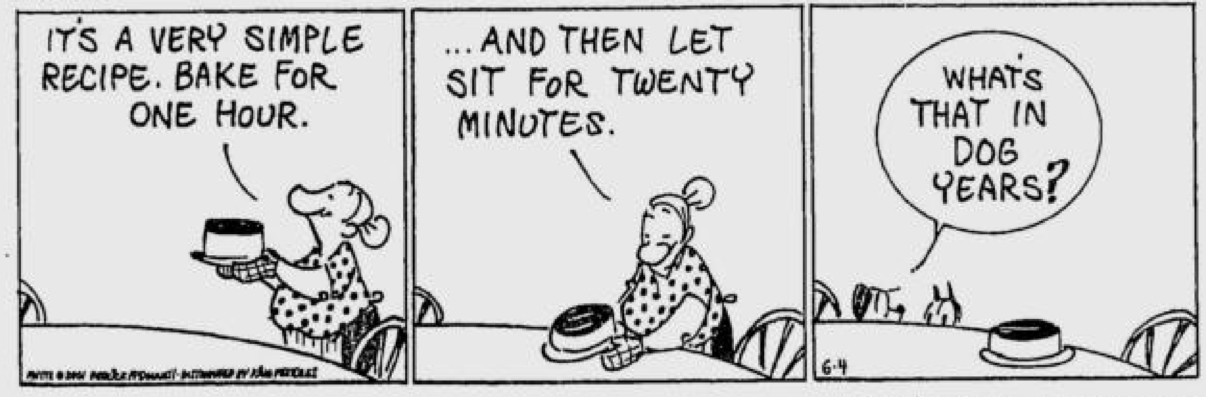
BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON


YOU KNOW, I DO REGRET NOT SPENDING MORE TIME WITH PATTY AS A CHILD...
...SEEMS I WAS ALWAYS TOO BUSY TO TAKE A FEW EXTRA MINUTES TO PLAY.
SHELTON
ANYWAY, NOW THAT I'M A GRANDFATHER, I'M NOT GONNA LET THAT HAPPEN ...KIDS GROW UP TOO FAST!
DAD, I HAVE A MEETING IN FIFTEEN MINUTES!
JUST A LITTLE LONGER, OKAY?

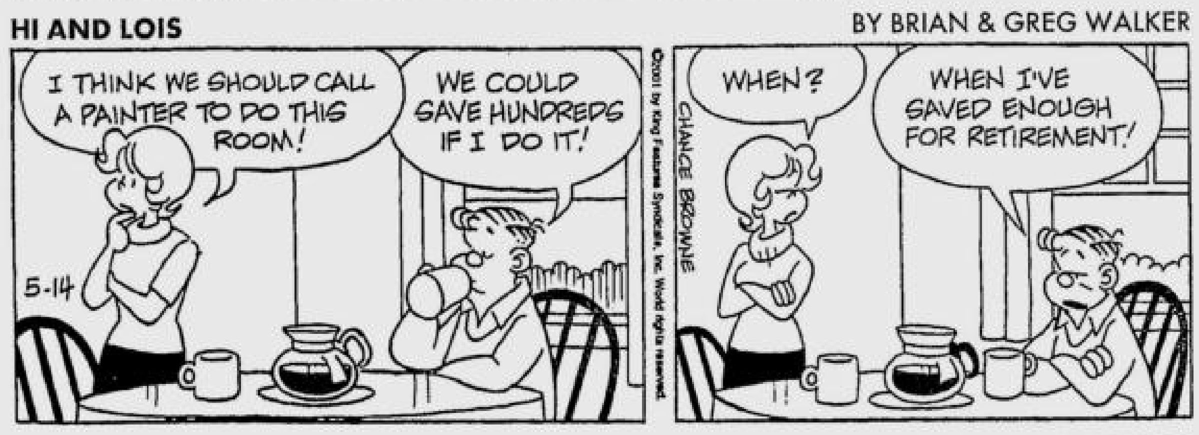
MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL


IT'S A VERY SIMPLE RECIPE. BAKE FOR ONE HOUR.
...AND THEN LET SIT FOR TWENTY MINUTES.
WHAT'S THAT IN DOG YEARS?
6-4

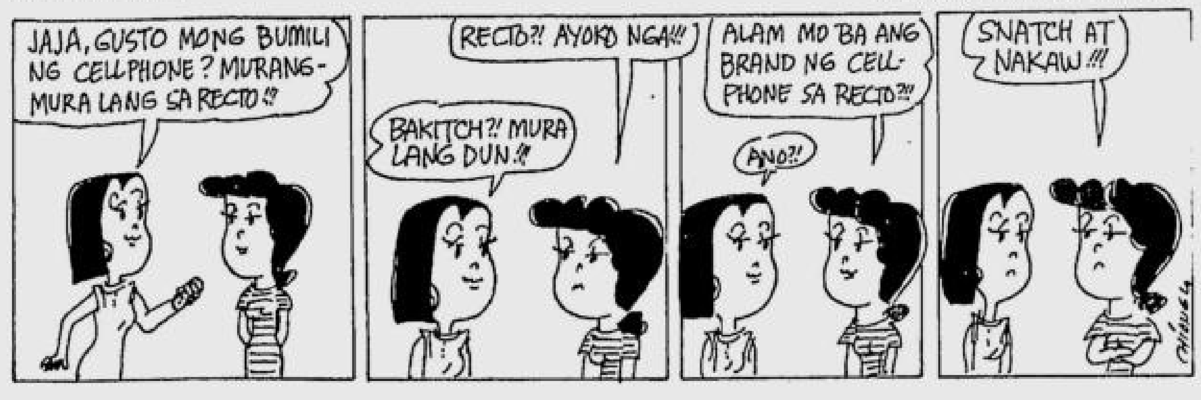
HI AND LOIS

BY BRIAN & GREG WALKER


I THINK WE SHOULD CALL A PAINTER TO DO THIS ROOM!
WE COULD SAVE HUNDREDS IF I DO IT!
5-14
©2001 by King Features Syndicate, Inc. World rights reserved.
CHANCE BROWNE
WHEN?
WHEN I'VE SAVED ENOUGH FOR RETIREMENT!

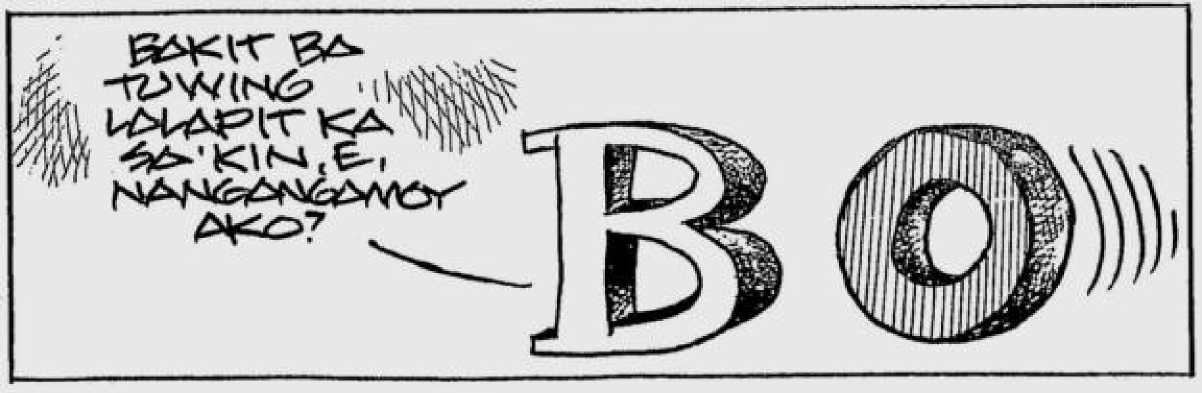
LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


JAJA, GUSTO MONG BUMILI NG CELLPHONE? MURANG-MURA LANG SA RECTO!!
RECTO?! AYOKO NGA!!!
BAKITCH?! MURA LANG DUN!!
ALAM MO BA ANG BRAND NG CELLPHONE SA RECTO?!!
ANO?!
SNATCH AT NAKAW!!!

TULDOK

BY PAPU & TATUM MILAMBILING


BAKIT BA TUWING LALAPIT KA SA'KIN, E, NANGANGAMOY AKO?
BO

Newest American violin sensation performs in Manila

By Pablo Tariman

MANILA'S music lovers have two reasons for watching the Aug. 17-18 engagements of the Asian Youth Orchestra, which is composed of the best young musicians in the region today.

The first is Cecile Licad who is the soloist in Rachmaninoff's Variations on a Theme by Paganini on the 17th, and the second is violinist Leila Josefowicz on the 18th.

So far, Manila's music scene has been dominated by European fiddlers from Spivakov to Tomescu, but no American violinist really made a lasting impression except Aaron Rosand in the '80s. Licad's friend, Nadja Sonnenberg (winner of the Naumburg Competition), played in Manila in the '70s and would have returned in the mid-'90s but backed out at the last minute. (My dream concert then was to unite Licad, Meneses and Sonnenberg in the Tchaikovsky Trio, which they recorded.)

The coming of Josefowicz should convince Manila's music lovers that America still has a violin sensation after Isaac Stern and Itzhak Perlman.

Like Licad, Josefowicz is a product of Curtis Institute (Licad entered at age 11 and Josefowicz at age 13) and, in the true sense of the word, a prodigy. She played her first concert at age 8 (the Bruch concerto). She was seen on national television as guest of "Lucille Ball" in a special dedicated to Bob Hope. At 16, she made a successful debut at Carnegie Hall.

Again like Licad, Leila showed artistic maturity at an early age.

When Sir Neville Marriner saw her on a TV talk show, his impression was: "A pretty, unembarrassed young girl walked into view, planted her feet sturdily and played. She played a popular short piece, and at once I recognized a very special talent. This was no wiz kid, but a player already with authority and style."

This violinist actually inspired popular vampire novelist Anne Rice to write a novel titled "Violin." The musician reciprocated with a recording called "Violin for Anne Rice," reportedly inspired by the novel.

What is exciting about this violinist is, while she is firmly planted on the classical, she has no qualms invading the contemporary music idiom, making a big mark all the time.

> What is exciting about this violinist is, while she is firmly planted on the classical, she has no qualms invading the contemporary music idiom

While her recordings of Sibelius and Tchaikovsky concertos are bestsellers, she is also hooked on an unpopular John Adams violin concerto and on jazz, rock and New Age music. Her latest recording is "Americana," a collection of American roots music, including arrangements of ragtime, folksong and jazzy numbers like "Summertime."

This year, she is making waves in Europe. In February and March, she was a hit in Sweden and Belgium playing Prokofiev's Violin Concerto No. 1. She was also a hit in Seattle in April, playing the John Adams violin concerto (while Licad in the same place was getting ovation for Liszt's "Malediction"). Last month, Josefowicz was in Palermo, and next month she finally makes it to Manila.

Just what is exciting about this all-American girl?

What she told a music magazine is extremely revealing of her sensibility.

Asked on the direction of her music career, she said: "It'll have to be something which is so completely original, so completely unique, that no one would even think of duplicating it. It'll be my own stamp on creativity. What ever I do now, I'll have to play it to the max. I'd rather be nailed to the floor and beaten to death than have anyone tell me what I'm doing is boring."

Here and there

Last June 30, Eugene Fredrick Castillo became the first Filipino to conduct Washington D.C.'s National Symphony at the Kennedy Center. He got a pretty good review from Washington Post's Joe Banno (the same critic who gave a rave review of Cecile Licad's all-Chopin recital last January).

It went: "Eugene Castillo was no less persuasive in Ravel's 'Daphnis and Chloe' Suite No. 2. Shaped with a sure sense of line and a beautifully gauged climactic build, the music unfolded with sultry languor, its busy inner lines glowing but always intelligible. Castillo sculpted the air (both with and without a baton) in sweeping, emotionally communicative arcs, driving the finale to an ecstatic white heat."

I earlier heard Castillo with the UST Symphony conducting Poulenc's Concerto for Two Pianos with Reynaldo Reyes and an American pianist as soloists, and later in a school concert of the PPO at the CCP. He was just outstanding. It is time the PPO seriously considers him for the next PPO season. We keep on featuring the same old faces that foreigners are beginning to wonder if we have run out of promising conductors.

Pianist Nita Abrogar Quinto is the featured pianist in Gerswhin's Rhapsody in Blue to be performed by the Metro Manila Community Orchestra (MMCO) under the baton of Chino Toledo on July 14 (7:30 p.m.) and July 15 (4 p.m.). An added feature is a light-and-shadow play and puppetry presentation of the Anino Shadow Play Collective. Venue is the Francisco Santiago Hall. The concert is a 16th year anniversary concert of the MCO Foundation. Another MCO anniversary presentation is the July 23 recital of pianist Hiyas Hila, now a junior at the San Francisco Conservatory of Music under Professor Mack McCray. She will participate in the New Millennium International Piano Festival in Gijon, Asturias, in Spain in August. Her program: Bach's French Suite No. 5 in G Major; Beethoven's Sonata No. 1, Op. 57; Bela Bartok's suite Op. 14; Debussy's "Reflection on the Water," Chopin's Nocturne in B Flat Minor, Op. 9, No. 1, and Nocturne in F Major, Op. 15, No. 11, and Ballade in G Minor, Op. 23. For tickets, call 818-1403.

The opening of the San Miguel Philharmonic on July 12 has been postponed, but conductor Julian Quirit is already in town. Another Manila-based youth orchestra, the Manila Youth Symphony Orchestra, will have a transformation next month. It will have a special transition concert on Aug. 19 at the St. Cecilia's Hall as it becomes the Manila Symphony Orchestra 2 or MSO 2.

Our condolences to the family of former CCP staffer Vittorio Clarete, who passed away last week. Vitt, as we called him, was an opera lover. He gave me my first tape of Dame Joan Sutherland and an old recording of Lilia Reyes from Villar Records.

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5. **To quit Decode**, key in QUIT and send to 238.

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3. **To quit Wordseek**, key QUIT and send to 238.

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LIFESTYLE

French ambassador treats Paris ballet dancers and friends to dinner

Story on page G2

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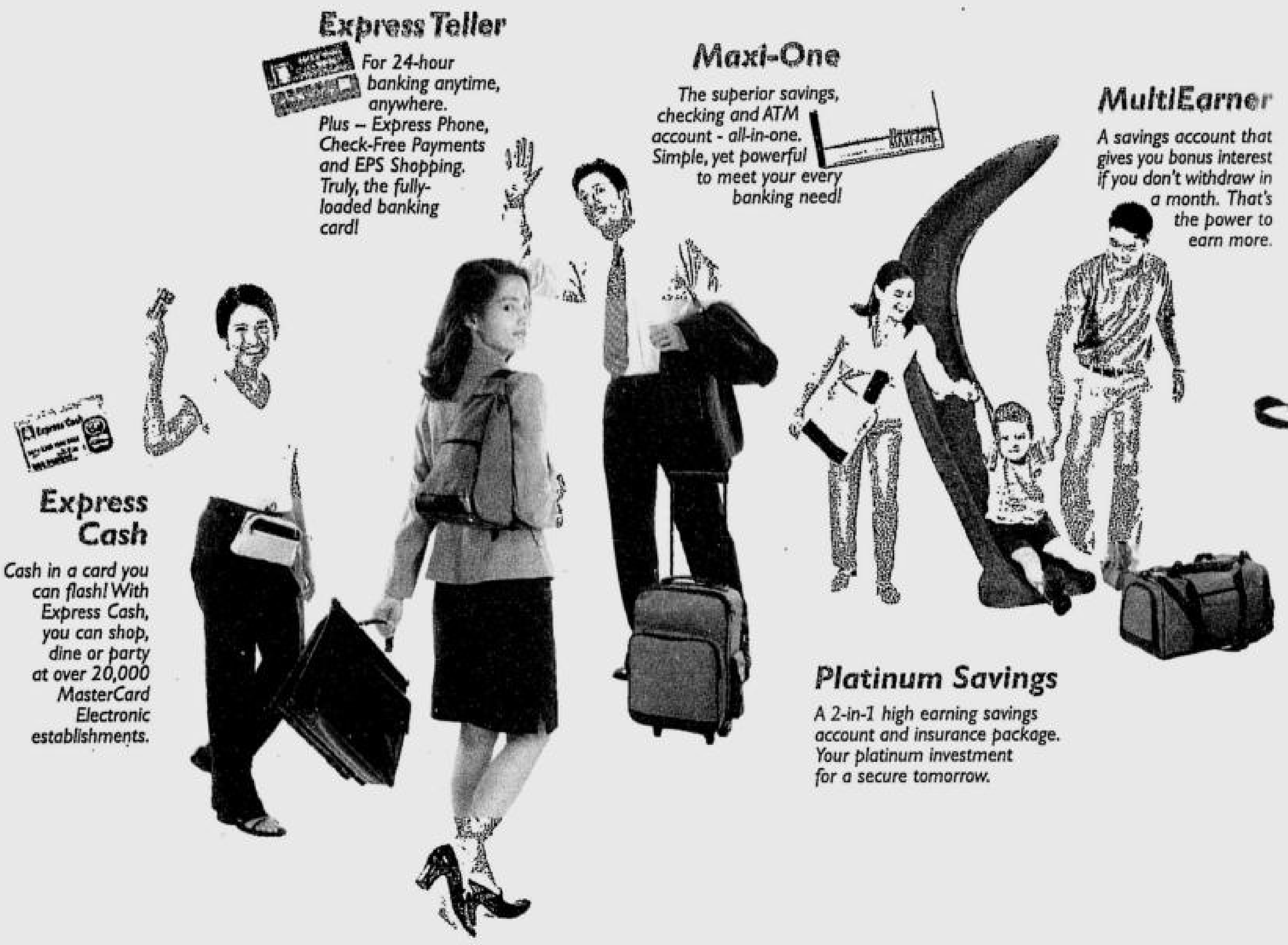

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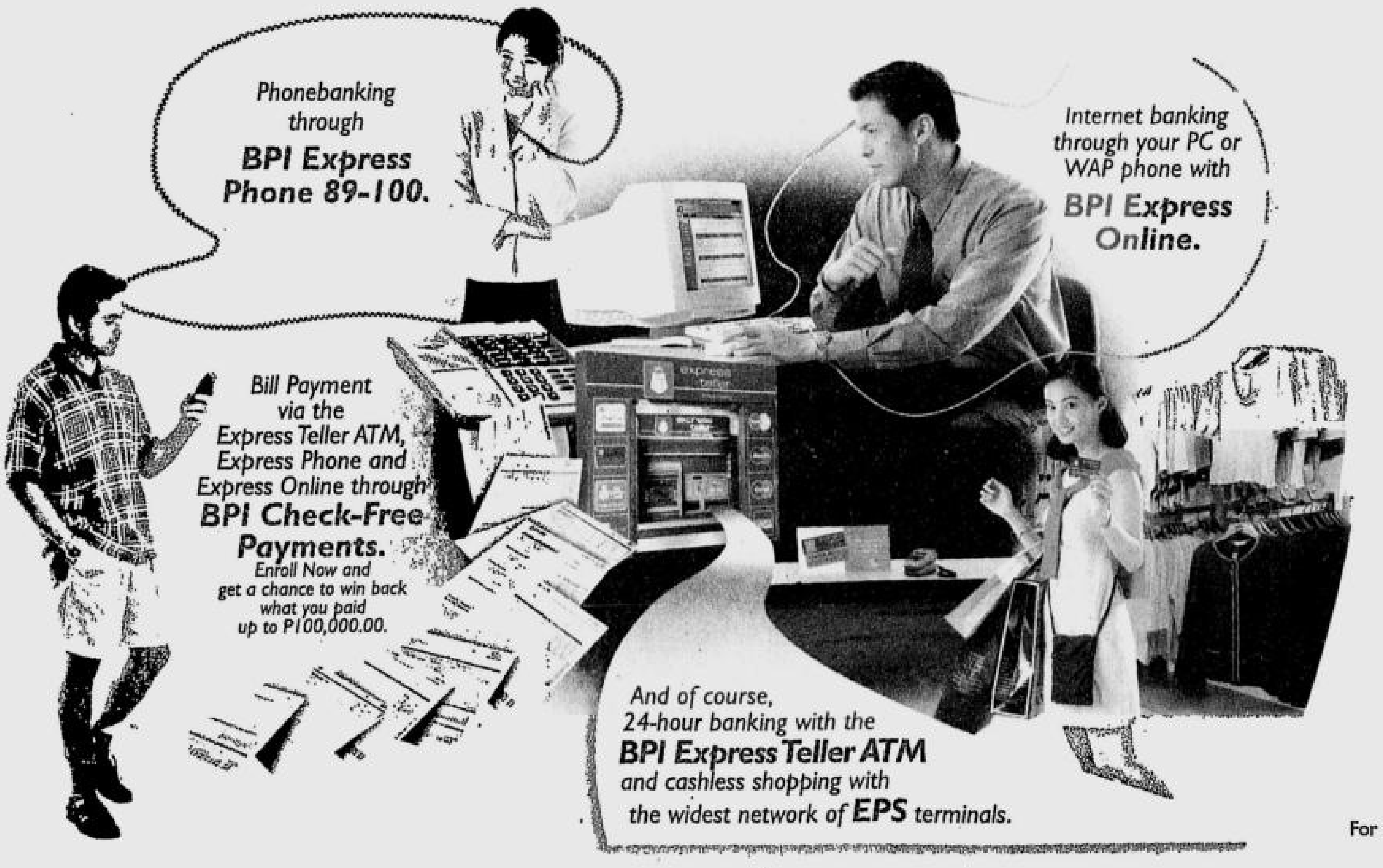

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PHOTOS BY BETOY JOHNSON

THE PARIS ballet troupe

CHINESE Ambassador Wang Chungui and German Ambassador Herbert Jes

DR. Jaime Laya

French ambassador treats Paris ballet dancers and friends to dinner

DIPLOMATIC SWIRL

By Amiga

ALL good things must come to an end as they say so the 3rd French Spring in Manila celebration finally came to a close with the "Fete de la Music" in Malate but not before several dinners, receptions and performances. This was great to take people's minds off the dismal state of things in general.

The always gracious and welcoming French Ambassador **Gilles Chouraqui** tendered a sit-down dinner at his residence for the visiting ballet dancers Jeune Ballet du Conservatoire de Paris. Everybody who is anybody in the cultural field was there, including NCCA chair Dr. **Jaime Laya** whose job some very odd people are reportedly salivating for—God knows why; National Artist **Leonor Orosa Goquingco** and loads of other artistic types. Baron **Patrick K.** and **Rod Dula** made one of their rare appearances; Alliance president **Aurelio Montinola** who's with Bank of P.I. when he isn't speaking French; **Paz Yuchengco**, **Tessie Luz**, who had just arrived from visiting her grandchildren; artist-couple **Allan** and **Ivie Cosio**, **Nelson Navarro** and the lovely Mme. **Lena Haakanson**, wife of the Swedish Ambassador; German Ambassador and Mme. **Herbert Jes** and European Union Ambassador **Yves Gazzo.** There was no single politician in sight, thank God.

* * *

British Ambassador and Mme. **Alan Collins** had a lovely garden reception with a military band and British school students singing with the Smokey Mountain Foundation children to celebrate **Queen Elizabeth II's** birthday. Dozens of guests kept their fingers crossed that it wouldn't rain and ruin the impressive buffet set up by the Inter-Con Hotel that everyone enjoyed, especially those oh-so fattening crepes.

Jennifer Wallam of Eva Foundation fame was there in her Scots tartan singing along with the

FRENCH/ p.G4

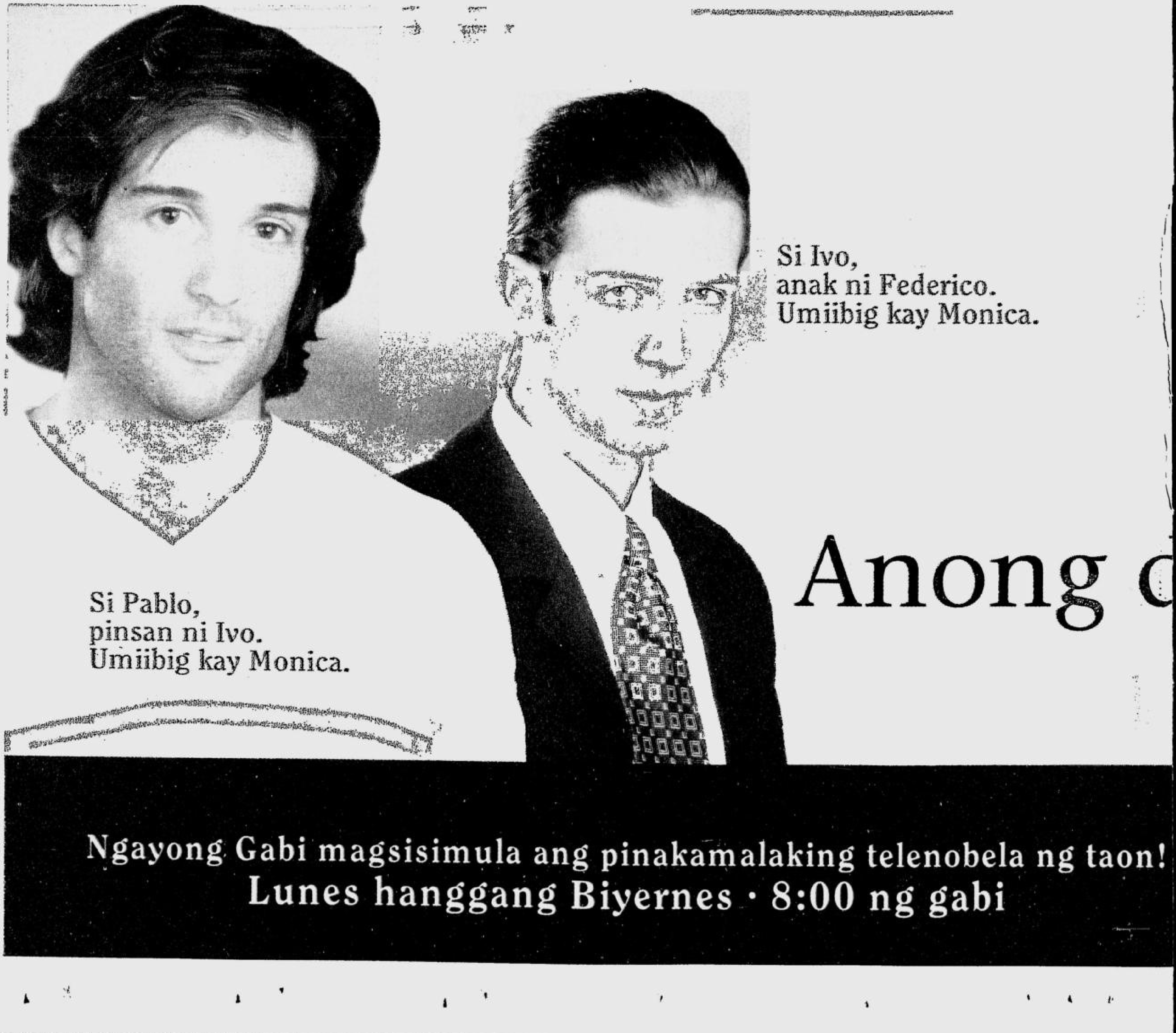
MSGR. Antonio Franco and Italian Ambassador and Mme. Umberto Colesanti

CANADIAN Ambassador and Mme. Robert Collette

MME. Lena Haakanson of Sweden

BRITISH Ambassador and Mme. Alan Collins with the Smokey Mountain Foundation schoolchildren and the British schoolchildren

AMBASSADOR Domingo Siazon and Japanese Ambassador Yoshihisa Ara


Si Ivo,
anak ni Federico.
Umiibig kay Monica.
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Umiibig kay Monica.
Anong
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Our Lady of Medjugorje says: 'Pray and seek God through Me'

IN HER message on June 25, the 20th anniversary of her apparitions in Medjugorje, the Blessed Mother told the visionaries to pray and seek God through her.

The full message is as follows: "Dear Children! I am with you and I bless you all. Especially today when God gives you abundant graces, pray and seek God through me. God gives you great graces, that is why, little children, make good use of this time and come closer to my heart so I can lead you to my Son Jesus. Thank you for having responded to my call."

Despite the lack of official sanction from the Vatican about the apparitions of Mary in Medjugorje to five young visionaries since 1981, millions of pilgrims have been going to Medjugorje for the past 20 years.

During the month of May 2001, there were 120,000 pilgrims who received Holy Communion and 2,747 priests who concelebrated Masses.

During that period, pilgrims continued to flow from 28 countries such as Belgium, Germany, Poland, Italy, France, Chile, Lebanon, Ireland, England, Scotland, Austria, Australia, Canada, Korea, United States, the Czech Republic, Slovakia, Hungary, Malta, Romania, Brazil, Switzerland, Holland, South Africa, Argentina, Montenegro, Croatia and Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Had we a consulate in Manila, Filipinos would be able to regularly go to Medjugorje. But when we still had a consulate in the '80s, Filipinos were able to go easily.

Alice Padlan of Arpex Travel recalls that when she and two friends got there, they felt different. It was as if the Blessed Mother welcomed them with an embrace.

She says that in Masses where they chanted the "Veni Creatoris Espiritus," they could feel the Holy Spirit coming in. There were so many people, she says, that one could hardly move.

Tita Alice says: "If you are not a prayerful person, you become prayerful; if you already are, your prayer life is enhanced."

Gilbert Perez's miracle

My good friends Gilbert Perez and Nolie Hans, together with Nomer Pabilona, went to Vienna in December 1987 for the wedding of Ching and Philip Cruz. From there, they went to Medjugorje.

When they were about to leave for Manila, they found out that their reservations were cancelled because they did not confirm their flights 72 hours before departure. The next flight out would be in January 1988.

They did not have money anymore to pay for a hotel. Gilbert told me they prayed to Our Lady of Medjugorje and even climbed the mountain to reach the Holy Cross. While there Gilbert promised Mama Mary he would always carry a Rosary in his pocket and that he would pray it.

PURELY PERSONAL

Josephine Darang

When they went back to the airline office, the ticketing clerk told them that there a miracle had happened. Three passengers cancelled their flight because they opted to stay longer. Gilbert jumped with joy.

Pilgrimage to Medjugorje

Arpex Travel is organizing a trip to the shrine of the Divine Mercy in Krakow, Prague, Rome and Medjugorje. The group leaves on Oct. 3 in time for the feast of St. Faustina of the Divine Mercy on Oct. 5. Those interested to join can call Arpex at 525-3883/3902.

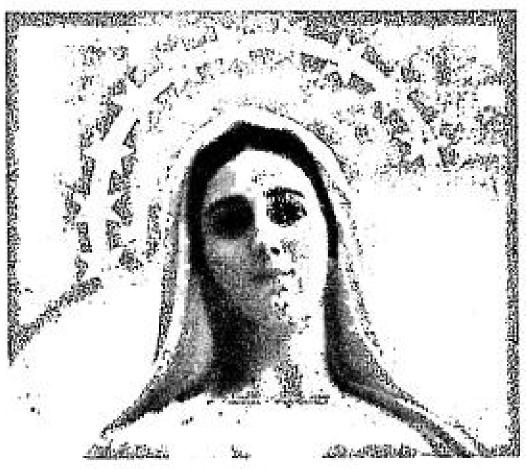
Should you wish to know more about Medjugorje, please access the Medjugorje website at www.medjugorje.com.

Ben Farrales and the Sto. Niño

BEN Farrales, the dean of Philippine fashion, must have spent half his life propagating the devotion to the Sto. Niño. Together with a group of friends, he founded the Congregacion del Santissimo Nombre del Niño Jesus in 1981. They celebrate the feast of the Holy Child on the last two weeks of January with a grand exhibit of Sto. Niño images and a solemn procession from Philtrade to Luneta on the last Sunday of January.

But Mang Ben, as he is affectionately called, did more than that. He commissioned Abe Florendo and Des Bautista to write a coffee-table book on the Sto. Niño. It took two-and-a-half years to write, but it was worth the wait.

It's not only an intensive history of the devotion, but a complete and detailed report on the rituals and fiestas honoring the Child Jesus in Metro Manila and the provinces, particularly Cebu where the first image of the Child Jesus was given to Queen Juana as a gift by Magellan in 1521.



OUR Lady of Medjugorje

Intertwined with our lives

Our devotion to the Sto. Niño goes deeper than a mere display of His image in our homes, stores, beauty parlors and even bars. Turning to the Child Jesus in our moments of need is as natural as breathing.

With Mang Ben, it is a lifetime commitment to honor the Sto. Niño. At 5:30 a.m. every day after waking up, he prays the Rosary and then the novena to the Child Jesus.

The crowning glory of his devotion was the book launch on June 29 at the Metropolitan Museum. Imelda Cojuangco and a representative of the Papal Nuncio cut the ribbon. Mang Ben is the publisher.

When I saw the book, I was happy to have been part of it for I did the report on the miracles of the Sto. Niño de Provindencia experienced by sick people. Dulce Festin-Baybay wrote about the Sto. Niño de Pandacan. Kudos to George Tapan for the beautiful photography and Eugene Ong for the design.

If you wish to avail of the book, please call Ben Farrales' office at 524-8439 or the Congregacion office at 525-9126.

Divine Mercy prayer requests

WHEN we published Mario Somera's cell phone for those who want to ask the help of the Divine Mercy, he received at least 100 text messages just that day.

The prayer requests are being written down and sent to the Divine Mercy community in Cebu for the ritual of blessing the requests and praying over them. Those who want to send a prayer request can text (0917) 382-4674 or call 812-6313. Please identify yourselves in the text message.

St. Peter Chapel in Legazpi

FR. Ramoncito Segubiense of St. Peter Chapel in Buyoan, Legazpi would like to thank readers who responded to the call for help in the construction of the church. However, steel trusses and roofing materials are still needed. Those who want to donate in kind can write Father Ramoncito in the above address. The good priest replaced Fr. Nic Bilono III who began the construction. Those who live around Legazpi could help in kind. Thank you for your generosity.

Religious images for sale

THOSE who want to place religious images in their homes can order now. The images measure 2 ft and are made of wood. Images such as the Sacred Heart, Our Lady of Fatima, St. Anthony de Padua, Our Lady Mediatrix of All Grace and others are available. Call Quico Vecin at tel. 897-6633.

Churches need help

POOR churches that need help or seminarians who need benefactors can e-mail at josiedpurely@yahoo.com.

Archangels stolen

THE PARISH church of San Miguel, Bulacan lost two century-old Archangel images to thieves on June 22. Stolen were St. Gabriel and St. Sealtiel. Owners of antique stores and collectors are warned. Please call Jojo Goyena at (044) 764-0074.

BEN Farrales signs Sto. Niño books of Mely Ablaza and daughter Czarina Ablaza-Syquia.

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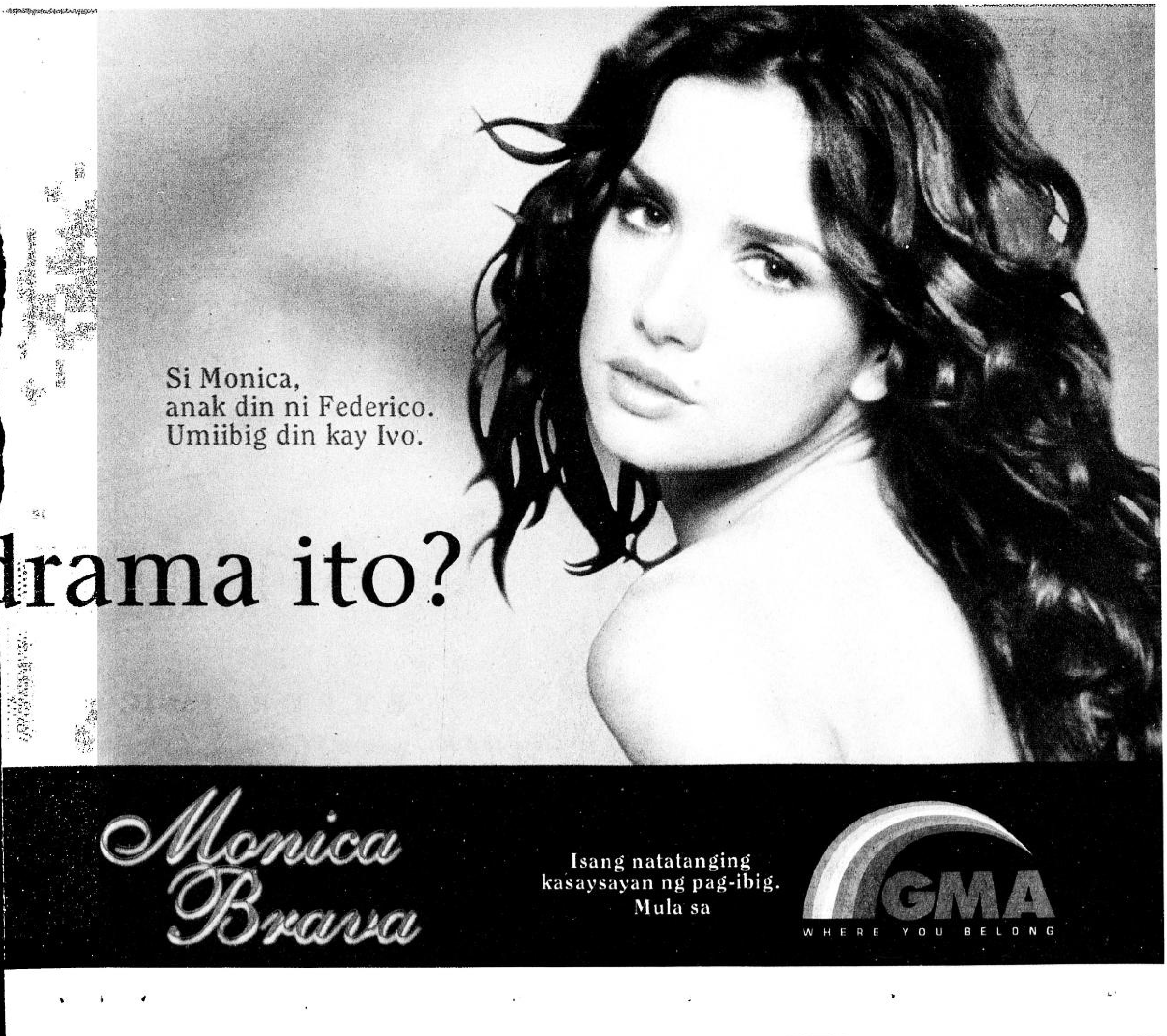

French ambassador treats Paris ballet dancers and friends to dinner

FILIPINA-AUSTRALIAN novelist Arlene Chai with members of Asia Society Sonia Ner, Vivian Yuchengco and Marilyn Golangco

CHAI with longtime family friends Helen Y. Dee and Paz S. Yuchengco

(From page G2)

kids, **Leslie** and **Brian Murray** sitting it out enjoying the music with Jan Clemo who dropped by before a dinner party. We saw unofficial Presidential Adviser **Roberto Romulo**, Presidential Spokesperson **Roberto Tiglao, Cynthia Norton, Vicky Garchitorena** in conversation with **Marixi Prieto** and **Sandy Romualdez.**

Ambassadorial ladies **Lena Hakansson** of Sweden, **Susan Bauman** of Switzerland, **Kessara Arnold** of the Netherlands, Dr. **Yumain Foo** of Singapore, to name just a few, lent their glamorous presence to the well-attended celebration together with **Nena Casimiro, Letty Syquia, Nellie Bengson** and yours truly.

* * *

In the mean time, if you don't have a copy, beg, borrow or steal the CD-ROM version of the 55-volume historical work of **Emma Blair** and **James Robertson** that Bank of P.I. created to celebrate their 150th anniversary. It's well worth it. There was a crack-of-dawn turnover by **Fernando Zobel de Ayala** to Education Secretary **Raul Roco** and National Library director **Adoracion Mendoza** at the Filipinas Heritage Library at 10 a.m. with no coffee in sight but looking bleary-eyed was worth it. BPI Foundation's executive director **Ronnie Tapia-Merk** presented a marvelous tableaux of costumed Filipinos of the era and a specially produced video and recording of "Lupang Hinirang." Fernando looked handsome.

* * *

Asia Society Philippines with the Australian Embassy and Dymock's Booksellers featured Filipina-Australian author **Arlene J. Chai** in an afternoon program at Filipinas Library, the cultural venue of choice these days. Super Arlene has four novels under her hat, "The Last Time I Saw Mother," "Eating Fire," "Drinking Water," "On the Goddess Rock" and "Black Hearts," a psychological thriller. The books are available at Robinsons Ermita.

Asia Society seeks to develop a sense of pride among Filipinos about themselves, their history and their culture by honoring those who have won acclaim abroad and proven that they're globally competitive.

OFFICERS of BPI

AURELIO Montinola, Fernando Zobel de Ayala and Secretary Raul Roco

PHOTOS BY JOHNNY VILLENA

FILIPINO costumes were presented during BPI's 150th anniversary celebration

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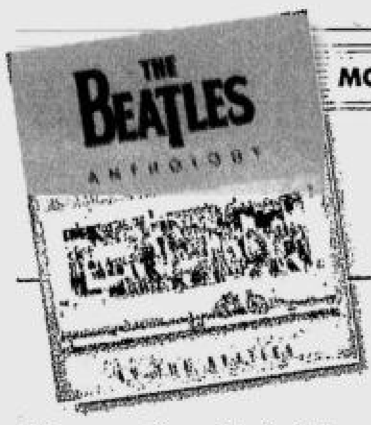

Get back: The Beatles are here

(Story on page H2)

From the Fab Four's own accounts, this anthology may be the ultimate fan's ticket to ride

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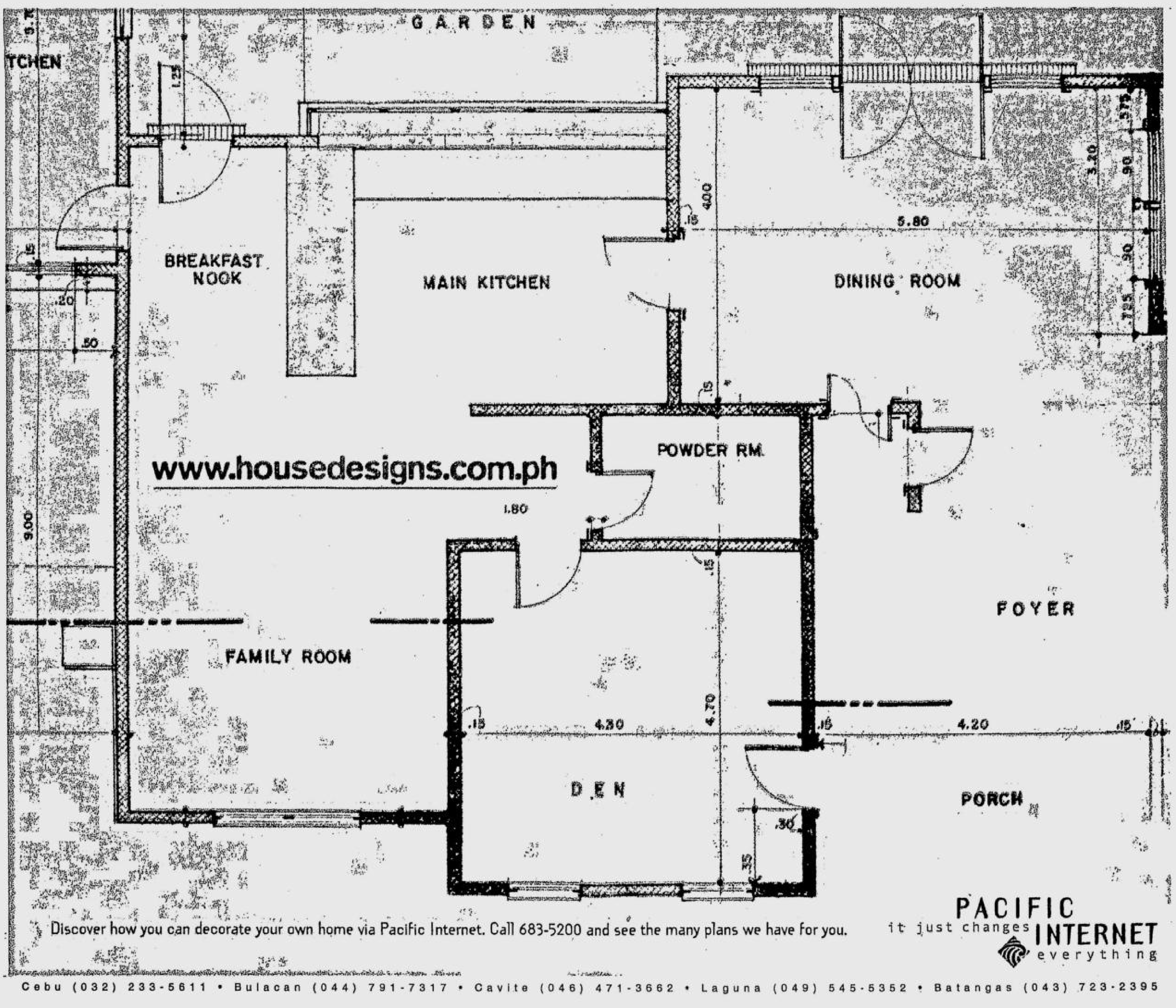

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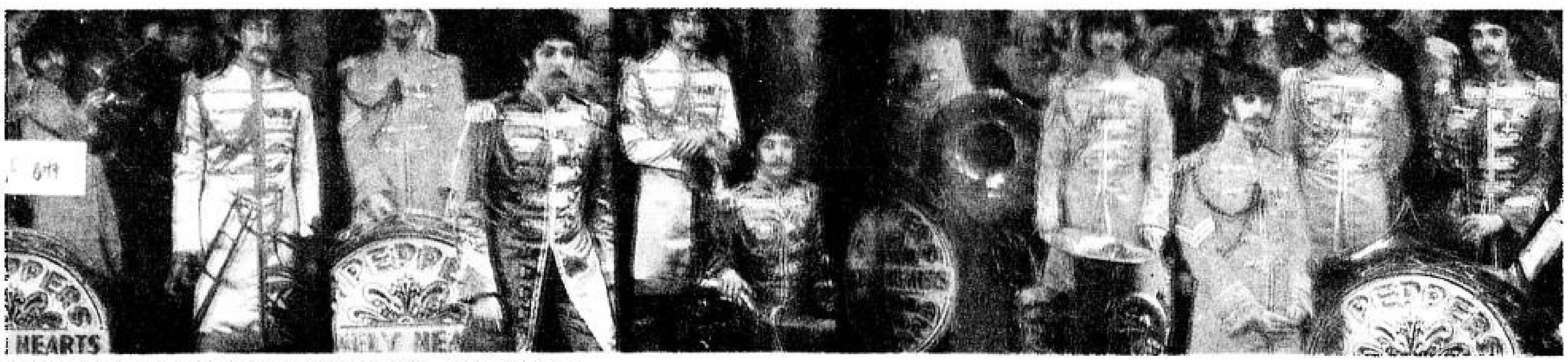


CARDBOARD cutout included with the Sgt. Pepper album

Get back: The Beatles are here

The Beatles Anthology
by The Beatles
Chronicle Books, San Francisco, 2000
367 pages

BY RUEL S. DE VERA

EVEN when the book deals with a cultural tidal wave as huge as The Beatles, the book's sheer size is still impressive. Then again, any icon that can influence everyone from Oasis to the Powerpuff Girls deserves a yellow submarine-sized book. Unlike other Beatles testimonials in the past, "The Beatles Anthology," ostensibly a companion to the TV documentary that preceded it, aims to present the ultimate tribute—for the Fab Four, by the Fab Four.

REVIEW

"Many books have been written about The Beatles," the "Anthology's" editorial note reads, "but this is their own permanent written record of events until 1970." Culled from interviews, notes, letters and other sources, this book becomes an exhaustive—and they hope, definitive—account of the magical mystery tour that Paul McCartney, George Harrison, Ringo Starr and the late great John Lennon took into world consciousness. There were tidbits from influential personalities such as Neil Aspinall, George Martin and Brian Epstein.

AS SOON AS
WE GOT THERE
IT WAS BAD NEWS.

PHOTOS from Philippine tour include Imelda Marcos and Lennon's verdict on the tour

Divided into eight chapters, the "Anthology" records each of The Beatles' moptopped ruminations from 1960 to 1970, effectively chronicling The Beatles' lifetime as a group. The sheer amount of text will overwhelm all but the most devoted fan and each page is illustrated by a dizzying array of photographs and images-letters and lyric sheets in their own penmanship, tickets, stills and album covers. There are images, literally, from here, there and everywhere. When one begins reading the "Anthology," there is the feeling that you are, in effect, being subsumed by enormity of The Beatles saga.

The book is an illuminating record, particularly of The Beatles' early days. It can sometimes even be cute, as when John says, "Once upon a time there were three little boys called John, George and Paul, by name christened. They decided to get together because they were the getting together type." He then goes on to explain how The Beatles got their name—and Ringo would come along soon after.

The "Anthology" is always most interesting as it tries to achieve a behind-the-scenes feel and look with The Beatles' own introspection and the photographs put together. The book traces their ascent in jumps and starts, and a real turning point was how The Beatles' invasion of the United States began with their 1964 appearance on "The Ed Sullivan Show." Paul says "It was very important. We came out of nowhere with funny hair, looking like marionettes or something. That was very influential. I think that was one of the things that broke us—the hairdo more than the music originally."

When the Beatles began to take over the world with their music, the band members themselves seem unable to describe it. They're just along for the ride. It was George who perhaps put it best: "On tour that year, it was crazy. Not within the band. In the band we were normal, and the rest of the world was crazy." The trips around the world was a fast-paced, almost psychedelic experience for the Fab Four, and it is notable that the four spill a considerable amount of ink on their terrifying visit to the Philippines, when they were in effect forced to leave the country after a supposed performance at Malacañang for the Marcoses goes very, very wrong. Ringo sums it up when he notes how "the Philippine visit was really frightening. It's probably the most frightening thing that's happened to me."

Perhaps the most amazing parts of the "Anthology" are the portions dealing with the Beatles' records. The four spend a lot of time describing the energy, the uplifting tenor of those moments, most notably with "Sgt. Pepper & the Lonely Hearts Club." After all, the Beatles were, first and foremost, artists and that really shows up here. It was also a greatly personal time as when Paul remembers: "Another wonderful thing was the joy of writing with John. John was a great talent. He was great to be around, very quick-witted and a very lovely soul." Through the stunning photos and details, readers will see that this is the essence of the Beatles: their music.

THE FAB FOUR: Ringo, John, Paul and George

As their moptops grew out, the Beatles also changed. The book grapples with this aspect, dealing with it in a noticeably cautious mood. But perhaps no other section is more careful than the chapter dealing with Yoko Ono. The interviews seem polite. Ringo's comment during that time was most typical of the book's as well: "(Yoko's being there) created tension because most of the time the four of us were very close, and very possessive of each other in a way; we didn't like strangers coming in too much." Finally, when the Beatles broke up in 1970, it was a chain reaction with each one of the four telling why they decided on it. John's is most direct: "I started the band. I disbanded it. It's as simple as that. My life with the Beatles had become a trap. A tape loop."

While the "Anthology" deals with all the Fab Four equally, it is John who clearly comes out as being the most fascinating. The book does not cover his subsequent death, but one can feel the genuine awe and affection the other Beatles had for him. Furthermore, the book's measured yet expansive scope also reveals perhaps its own drawback: it is in effect, the approved history and while every experience has been lovingly rendered and recorded, there is nothing truly new or revelatory here. This is a true tribute to the legacy and the vibe of the Beatles, without the warts, just the hits. Nothing unauthorized or damaging, just reveling in the rubber soul of the '60s. It is a heady, mesmerizing and long ticket to ride, one that gives the modern-day reader just a taste of the transcendent force of the Beatles' coming. A devoted Beatles fan can ask nothing more from "The Beatles Anthology," a glossy, glossed over yet detailed record of the Fab Four's hard day's night in the world spotlight. Yet it will leave you with a sentiment not unlike that of Paul's: "I'm really glad that most of the songs dealt with love, peace, understanding. There's hardly any one of them that says: 'go on, kiss, tell them all to sod off. Leave your parents.' It's all very 'all you need is love' or John's 'Give Peace a Chance.' There was a good spirit behind it all, which I'm very proud of. Anyway... it were a grand thing, the Beatles." Indeed, with this book's help, any fool on a hill can see that as well.

Available in hardcover from National Bookstore and Powerbooks.

Kristine Canon's lyrical text and Mariano Ching's visual riddles

"Bakit Matagal ang Sundo Ko?"
By Kristine Canon
Illustrations by Mariano Ching
Adarna House, 2001

BY NENI STA. ROMANA-CRUZ

THIS year's grand prizewinner in the PBBY-Salanga Writer's Prize vividly captures a familiar scene in a young child's school day—the *sundo* is still not there at the appointed time and place when the dismissal bell rings. It is a terrifying moment for the child narrator not to find her Nanay's familiar face in a sea of parents and Canon's prose allows both the child and adult readers to feel similarly.

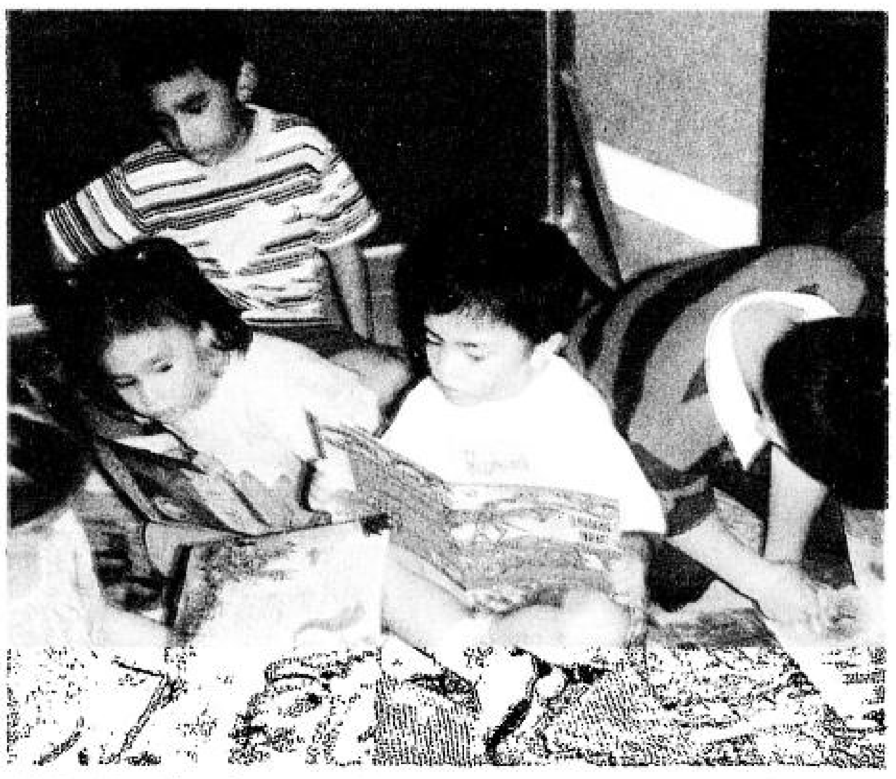
But it is not altogether frightening. The guard comforts her that surely, it must be the traffic. She waits and waits until she is the only one left seated on the bench, a lonely sight with her bag and lunchbox beside her. And to keep from crying, she engages in a delightful make-believe that only a child can think of. What triggers off the heart of this story is her remembering that their car had been having trouble the past days.

With Nanay stranded, what could she be trying to do to get to me? The charming possibilities unfold one after another and so do the many reasons which transform them into instant impossibilities. Could she have taken a ride on a turtle's back? Nanay'd be in a rush, so she would not ask for a turtle's help. Perhaps an elephant's huge steps would take her faster to me. But something as big as that would have trouble negotiating the traffic. An eagle flying too high would not find me here. She could swing with monkeys from tree to tree, but a banana tree will make those monkeys take pause.

Weary from her own imaginings, the child now begins to cry. This is a touching passage when she wonders if her Nanay has completely forgotten about her or perhaps has simply gotten tired of picking her up day after day.

It is almost anticlimactic when Nanay finally comes full of comforting reassurances of her love and the anytime excuse, that yes, it was just the traffic that held her up. And just as the reader felt the pain and anxiety of the child waiting on the lonely school bench, there is shared relief now, too. The guard was right, after all.

To those who may quibble about the seeming sexist translation in the title of "*sundo*" to "mommy," rest assured that it is in keeping with Canon's original text. It is Nanay that the narrator looks for as soon as she moves toward the school gate.



KIDS will get the chance to enjoy a storytelling session on the 3rd Children's Book Festival at the LG/L of the Shangri-La Plaza Mall, from July 14-22.

This story, which carries an English translation, will be enjoyed by children because it is about an everyday experience they can easily relate to. The make-believe portion lends itself to rich storytelling possibilities by teachers and parents. The English text is, of course, not quite as lyrical as the author's original text in Filipino.

While this format is now acceptable and almost taken for granted, it is worthwhile to look back and recall that this is a format started by RayVi Sunico of Cacho Publishing with what he called in the '80s as children's books with parallel texts. It was an attempt, then previously untried and undreamt of, to reach all audiences.

The award-winning illustrations by second-time winner of the PBBY Illustrator's Prize Mariano Ching, a professional visual artist, enhances the text, capturing in art all other nuances merely hinted at by Canon's prose. The child's perplexed expression on the cover is a prelude to Ching's whimsical drawings and visual riddles. His previous award from the PBBY was for his illustrations for Carla Pacis' story "Mayroon Akong Alagang Puno" in 1998, remarkably done in an altogether different style one would not think they came from one artist.

Canon and Ching will be honored at formal awarding ceremonies at the traditional luncheon at the CCP Theater lobby at the 18th National Children's Book Day on July 17. This is the first story that Canon, a preschool directress and young mother of 5-month-old Nathan, has ever written. Their entries were chosen over 50 others in both categories.

Also to be honored are the runners-up: writer Renita Ramos for "Saturday Morning in the Garden," which deals with a child coping with her mother's illness and eventual death; illustrators Frances Alcaraz, Beth Parrocha-Doctolero, Marcus Nada, Ernesto Balagtas and Jose Miguel Tejido.

The author is a member of the Philippine Board on Books for Young People, tels. 372-3548 or 49.

E-mail the author at nenisrc@hotmail.com.

An islander's passage

Eye of the Fish: A Personal Archipelago
By Luis H. Francia
Kaya Press, New York, 2001

BY DOREEN G. FERNANDEZ

LUIS H. Francia is a poet ("The Arctic Archipelago and Other Poems"), literary and film critic ("Memories of Overdevelopment"), journalist, teacher, editor ("Brown River, Unite Ocean: Twentieth Century Philippine Literature in English" and "Vestiges of War") and scholar. One can imagine that this book of 27 essays is one he had always thought of writing—an ultimate book that would say everything he wished in the ways he had dreamt of, a personal statement of past, present and future.

It is an archipelago, a personal collection of islands of memory, seas of experience, cities of the spirit. And it is also a journey through the Philippine archipelago, in which past and contemporary events "resonate beyond their historical specificity," in the author's words.

The wandering has purpose and direction, although the essays lie beginning to end, without subtitles or a table of contents. Some obviously belong together, because they are preceded by an epigraph. The first group is introduced by Pablo Neruda:

"Where am I from, I sometimes ask myself where in the devil
"Do I come from, what days today, what's happening,
"A roar, amid the dream, the tree, the night,
"And a wave, rising like an eyelid, begets
"A day, a flash with a jaguars snout."

Thoughts of Manila

Within its benison lies a piece about a dead body being fished out of an *estero*, and thoughts of Manila, the author's family, his education, and his leaving it to live in New York.

The poet and explorer asks: "If this archipelago could comment on my existence, what would it say? What memories, if any, would it have of my passage? Did mountain talk to plain, and plain whisper to sky that bore me away, to ocean that separates me from these islands? Did Manhattan's bedrock pick up, through riverine delta, through tremor, news of an Asian walking its grounds? Did it decipher in an islander's footfall and read in a Spanish name a tangled history of bone and spirit? Imagination, if you can this landscape's ineffable power, its sources of joy and sorrow."

Then follow pieces on Mt. Banahaw and Rizal, on Batac and Ferdinand Marcos, always with Francia's own current experiences juxtaposed against compatible memories.

Alfredo Navarro Salanga's lines from "A Philippine History Lesson" ("... What once gave us pulp/ has been chewed off/ and pitted—dry") enfold pieces on the Cordillera, Baguio and Bencab the artist; one on Vigan and *paltiks* (homemade handguns); Sagada and historian William Henry Scott.

Salud Algabre, organizer in the Sakdal peasant uprising of 1935, is quoted next: "No uprising fails. Each one is a step in the right direction." And here cluster pieces on people power, the underground movement and Emmanuel Lacaba; the Arts Festival in Camalig, Albay, and the subsequent trip to Leyte.

Before entering Tacloban we read Salman Rushdie: "... we have come unstuck from more than land. We have floated upwards from history, from memory, from Time." The single essay recalls Jose Dorado, an exceptional civil servant, and Imelda Marcos.

Virgil leads us into the next circle of this divine comedy: "And for exile they change their homes and pleasant thresholds and seek a country lying beneath another sun." Here are the typhoons and Cafgu of Hinunangan, Leyte, followed by essays on Cebu and Bohol and their writers—under the aegis of Eugene Gloria: "... Once there was a bus bound for the sea./ Once there was a woman singing of a house."

Healers and exorcists

The pieces about Dumaguete and then Siquijor and its healers and exorcists; Bacolod and its bishop; Iloilo and its Santa Barbara leprosarium, have as priestess Marjorie Evasco of Bohol:

"Their island resounds to the sea of your memory
"As you compose the tones, precise as music
"Heard from the lips of a conch shell, bringing news
"Of the world's magnificent indifference
"We give homage to with an old
"And deliberate tenderness."

The voyage reaches Mindanao: Davao and its politics; Zamboanga; Iligan; Jolo; Bongao. Jorge Luis Borges and Anna Akhmatova cover them: "Life is a future and well-traveled track./ Nothing dismisses us. Nothing leaves." And: "As if I were a river/ The harsh age changed my course/ Replaced one life with another,/ Flowing in a different channel/ And I do not recognize my shores."

Finally we enter Palawan and its rainforests; the Iwahig Penal Colony; Puerto Princesa and the Vietnamese village. We hear the voice of Gerard Manley Hopkins: "What would the world be, once bereft/ Of wet and wildness? Let them be left, wildness and wet; Long live the weeds and then wilderness yet."

Ricardo de Ungria supplies the prelude—"Whichever side of the ocean I'm on,/ Completeness will seek me and the world exceed/ The surprises I spring on it with these/Same words"--to Francia's fugue: "Where are you from? Where are you going?... Questions reminding me of that earth whence I came, the ground on which I first stood, where I saw for the first time water, fire and air, abundant both in their blessings and their cruelties. Trails lead to trails. In the meantime, the archipelago is a richly dark metaphor I continue to absorb."

And we readers continue to unravel this at different depths: in the travels, in the flow of past and present, dream and adventure; in the rich, polished eloquence; in the seamlessness of thought and expression. The pilgrim and his guides sing of self and society, the wet luminosity of the eye of the fish, the jaguar ferocity of the journey.

Showcase of rare books at Glorietta

ON JULY 9-11, Goodwill Bookstore will join Primetrade Asia Inc. in "The Corporate Show .01" at the Glorietta Activity Center in Makati City.

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Goodwill Bookstore's main store is located at Glorietta 3 Activity Center and there are nine other branches located in Metro Manila. The bookstore is engaged in retailing, wholesaling, importing, exporting, printing and publishing local and foreign books, magazines, stationery, novelties, greeting cards and school and office supplies.

Exhibitors to "The Corporate Show .01" are Access Digital Graphics & Business Services Inc., Advertising Experts & Professional Display Technologies Corp., Auffrance Catering, Center Mart International, Citibank N.A., Edca Publishing and Distributing Corp., Glisaz Audio-Video Corp., Hizon Catering Services, Josiah's Catering Services, Lollipop Safety Balloons Center, Marriott Vacation Club International, Newsweek Inc., Nissan Rent A Car, Philippine Vending Corp., Robert Camba Catering Services, Squad Alpha Inc., Summit Publishing Company Inc., The Brain Computer Corp. and The Perfect Day.

Anvil sets 2 book launches

ANVIL Publishing will relaunch Tony Perez's latest books, titled "Stories of the Moon" and "Songs of Sunset," on July 13, 6 p.m., at Powerbooks, 918 Arnaiz Ave. (Pasay Road) in Makati City. The books were recently launched in Baguio City. The highlight of the launch will be the oracle readings by the Spirit Quest group for all those who'll buy copies of the books.

"Stories of the Moon" is co-authored by two gifted channels Mike Duque and Dion Michael Fernandez, who, at the time the book was written, were students of Perez in his transpersonal psychology course. The essays of the two are interesting in that they are firsthand accounts of encounters with spirits.

Duque writes with a "you-are-there" experience, very much unlike those accounts of a third party or observer. Through him the reader is able to experience what the channel actually sees, hears and senses on a spirit quest. Fernandez, the team leader of the Baguio City chapter of the Spirit Questors, contributes three quest narratives, the most interesting of which was the one held at the ruins of the Hyatt Terraces which collapsed in a devastating earthquake in the late '80s.

"Songs of Sunset: Incantations and Spells by the Spirit Questors" is the first published anthology of the group. In his foreword, Perez explains that the works are expressions and, to a certain extent, prayers of these young and extremely gifted people who have been taught to channel their creative energies and talents to attain a higher level of existence and awareness. The book also includes cell-phone spells, developed by the group to perform with a mobile phone. The spells are all meant to bring good or positive energies to others.

Perez is a lecturer at the Ateneo de Manila University and the De la Salle University, and an award-winning novelist and playwright.

Anvil Publishing Inc. will also launch "hot money, warm bodies" by senior reporters Ellen Tordesillas and Greg Hutchinson on July 13, 6 p.m. at National Bookstore in Iloilo City. In the tradition of best-selling suspense novels, "hot money, warm bodies" provides a behind-the-scene account of the events that paved the way for the downfall of the popular but tainted former President Joseph Estrada. Also included are intimate details of the spicy lifestyle of the movie actor-turned-politician who sees as his only fault his inability to control his libido.

As a fitting prologue, the authors relate the six days of rage by the Estrada loyalists at the Edsa Shrine, which culminated in the storming of Malacañang Palace, now occupied by newly installed President Macapagal-Arroyo, 100 days after People Power II. Interested parties may contact the Iloilo branch manager at (033) 320-8096.

The book will also be launched on July 14, 4 p.m., at Boracay SandCastles Beach Retreat, White Beach, Boracay Island, Aklan. Multiawarded reporter Tordesillas is a newspaper columnist. Greg Hutchinson has been a correspondent and editor for respected news agencies such as Reuters, the Financial Times, Sydney Morning Herald and the Australian Finance Review.

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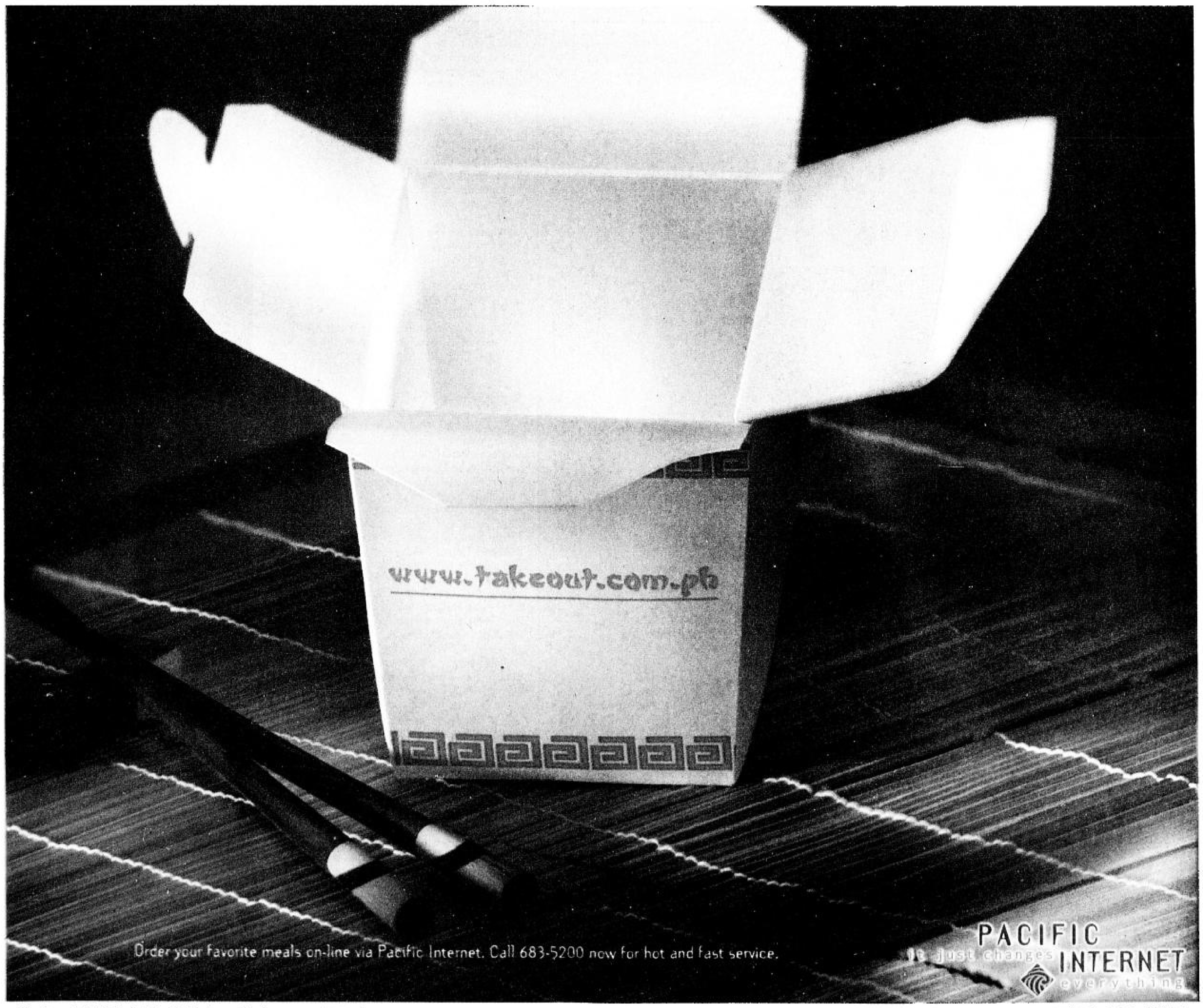
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TIMOTHY Mo, Marra Lanot, Nadine Sarreal, Wendell Capili, Reine Arcache Melvin

YONG Shu Moong and Dave McKirdy

REINE Arcache Melvin, Kirpal Singh, Michael Vatikiotis, Romesh Gunesekera, Krip Yuson

An entertaining and stimulating literary festival

BY JOSE WENDELL P. CAPILI

FILIPINO writers who received fellowships from Standard Chartered Bank attended Hong Kong's first International Literary Festival held on May 10-14. They are: Paris-based editor Reine Arcache Melvin who works at the International Herald Tribune; Singapore and Texas-based fictionist Nadine Sarreal; and Manila-based writers Marra PL Lanot, Jose Wendell Capili and Alfred Yuson.

The first Standard Chartered International Literary Festival was such a success that sponsors have pledged support for the festival next year.

"This inaugural festival exceeded our expectations," says festival director and Far East Economic Review editor Jane Camens, who adds that festival organizers had hoped to "put Hong Kong on the international literary map."

Many of the books in this year's event were sold out and publishers had to renew supplies. "It shows that, despite the myth that Hong Kong people don't like to read English literature, they will buy and read good books if they are introduced to them in an entertaining and stimulating environment," says Camens, adding that this was a good start and that plans are already brewing for next year's event.

DINO Mahoney and Linda Chanwai Earle

"I'm sometimes asked whether Hong Kong needs an international literary festival, and for English no less," she says. "Our chief executive Tung Chee Hwa provides the answer better than I can. He has declared Hong Kong as Asia's World City. You can't be a world-class city without having a grasp of literature—one of the richest forms of communications in English, the world's most widely spoken international language."

Codirector and CNN correspondent Nury Vittachi said: "The English language doesn't belong to any one culture. It can be argued that Asia, and Asians, have had as much influence on the English language, and English literature as the other way around."

Filipina writer Marra Lanot was surprised to witness how audiences bought books written by the Filipino delegates. In fact, these audiences paid approximately $12 to listen to the presentations that included Filipino authors.

Influential

The writers who participated in this festival showed how influential their works have been. They included Hong Kong's own Booker Prize-nominated writer Timothy Mo who funded his own trip from the UK; Malaysian-American writer Shirley Geok Lin Lim, a visiting professor at the University of Hong Kong; US novelist Shawn Wong who taught one of the first university courses on Asian-American writing in the United States; acclaimed US novelist Gail Tsukiyama, whose mother is a Chinese based in Hong Kong; and winners of major Australian literary awards, Lau Siew Mei and Hsu-Ming Teo.

Other festival crowd-drawers are: New Zealand-based broadcaster and novelist Linda Chanwai-Earle; US-based writers Alex Kuo and Xu Xi (who happened to be a friend of New York-based Fil-Am writers Eric Gamalinda and Bino Realuyo); Hong Kong's Louise Ho, PK Leung, Agnes Lam and Raymund Ng; Singaporean-Canadian Goh Poh Seng; long-time Hong Kong residents Michael Vatikiatis, Madeleine Marie Slavick, Mani Rao, David Parker, Dave McKirdy and Dino Mahoney; and Singaporean writers Kirpal Singh, Leong Liew Geok and Eddie Tay.

Particularly worth mentioning is Kee Thuan Chye. In 1976, Chye attended the Silliman University National Writers' Workshop under the late Edilberto Tiempo and National Artist Edith Lopez Tiempo. His batchmates include Filipino writers Marjorie Evasco, Leoncio Derriada, Francis Macansantos and Ernesto Superal Yee. In 1996, Chye and Filipina fictionist/essayist Cristina Pantoja Hidalgo both received British Council fellowships to the Cambridge Seminar on the Contemporary Writer at Downing College, Cambridge.

Publishers and agents present during the festival include Faber and Faber, Penguin and local publishing enterprises Mike Morrow of Asia 2000,Vittachi of Chameleon Press and Colin Day of the Hong Kong University Press. Also present was a representative from the Kiriyama Pacific Rim Institute, which gives two annual awards of US$15,000 each, one for fiction and one for nonfiction. Publishers from all over the world may submit books for the prize provided that the books are in English and concerned with the Pacific Rim in a significant way.

"We want this festival to help Hong Kong become a place where publishers and agents can actively look for good work emerging from the region; a place where writers can gain inspiration; and a place where readers will find a vast array of good literature informed by Asia," Vittachi said.

Enthusiastic

Elaine Leung, CEO of Hong Kong's on-line bookseller Paddyfield.com, a major sponsor, said the attendance of more than 500 children at the children's section of the new Hong Kong Central Library, Leisure and Cultural Services Department, showed the enthusiasm of Hong Kong teachers, parents and the children themselves in meeting writers and learning about good books in English. Paddyfield.com also cosponsored with by Oxford University Press and Pacific Century Publishers three book prizes for students who entered a school essay competition.

The Standard Chartered International Literary Festival, which focuses on and celebrates good writing in English from Asian roots, is unique among literary festivals around the world. No other festival specifically showcases Asian writers and writings from Asia. It is the directors' hope that Hong Kong will become a hub for the further flowering of good writing in Asia.

The authors' readings were held at The Fringe Club, site of the former crown colony's first ice plant on Lower Albert Road near the old Governor's residence and the United States Consulate. The University of Hong Kong's Vice Chancellor, Ian Davis, hosted a welcome reception at the university's senior common room on Pokfulam Road. Standard Chartered Bank and the Mandarin Oriental Hotel feted the writers together with Hong Kong's business, government and academic communities at the Mandarin's Connaught room.

The festival was cosponsored by Paddyfield.com together with the University of Hong Kong, Dymocks, the University of Science and Technology's Language Center, the British Council, and the Consulate Generals of Australia, Canada, New Zealand and the USA, the Hong Kong iMail and the Mandarin Oriental Hotel.

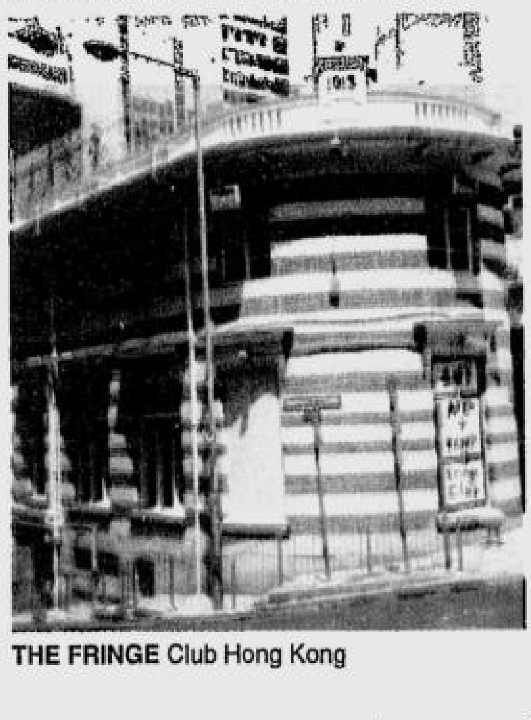
Jose Wendell P. Capili graduated from UST, UP Diliman, The University of Tokyo (Japan) and the University of Cambridge (England). He received fellowships from the Japanese, Korean and British governments aside from Palanca and the Cultural Center of the Philippines awards for his poems and essays. In 1998, UP Press published "A Madness of Birds," his first book of poems. He is currently the associate dean for administration and development at the UP College of Arts and Letters.)

KEE Thuan Chye

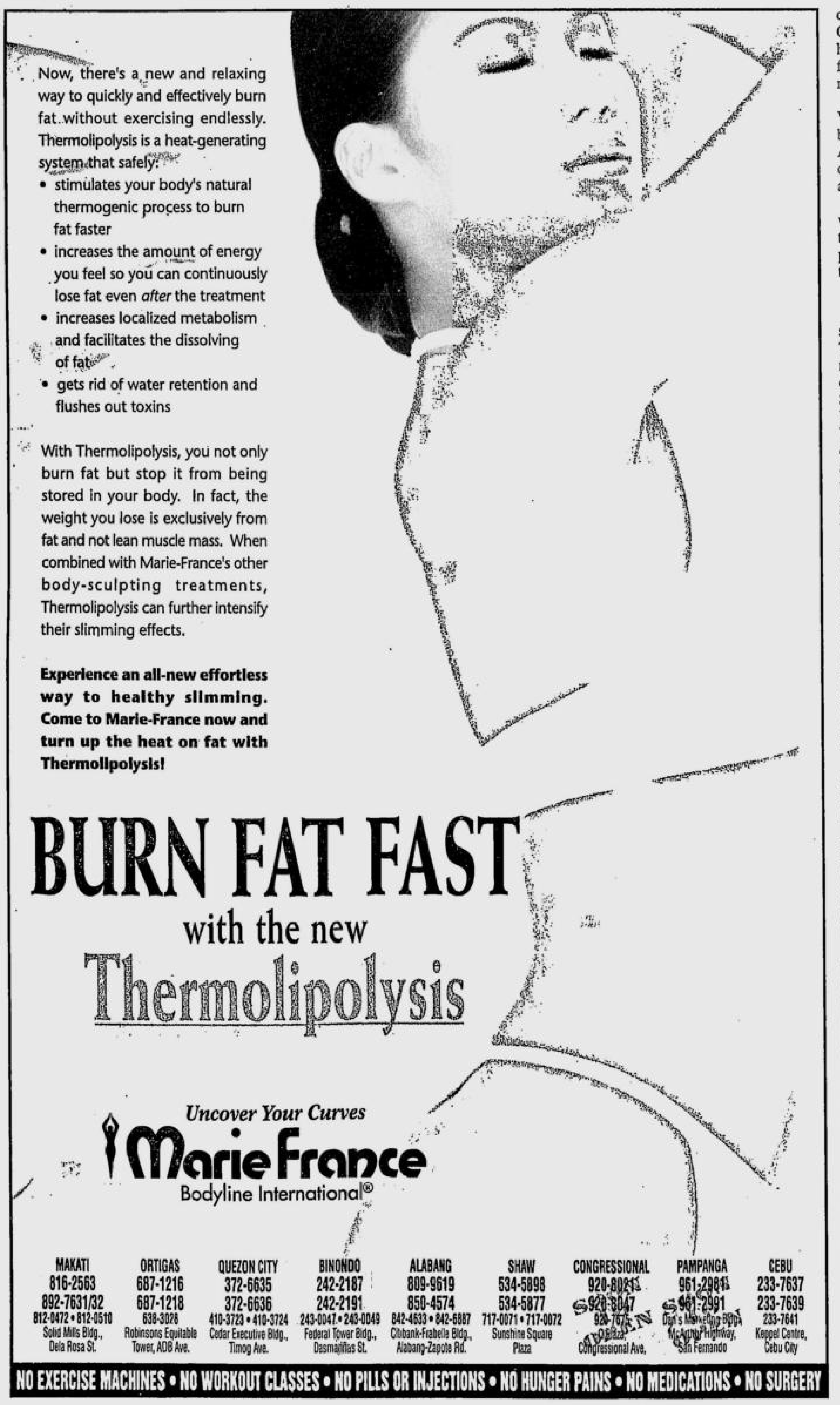
NURY Vittachi

JANE Camens

HELEN Kuchel



THE FRINGE Club Hong Kong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